

# Public Libraries

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## State Library Associations\*

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### II

Our libraries, when rightly conducted, are becoming great social forces in the communities, working in harmony with other educational forces and cooperating with and furthering the plans of organizations which work for better citizenship and higher living. Is it not a reproach to our associations that we permit our great possibilities to be jeopardized by some obsolete legislation which may make the library but a bob on the tail of the school like, or, mayhap, the football of some uninterested citizen who covets the honors but not the responsibilities of efficient stewardship? Should not our associations stand back of the library commissions which should be in existence to carry forward the progressive policies which the association advocates? In my opinion the library commissions when rightly conducted are the strongest constructive forces in library work instituted in this generation, yet too often they have to fight single-handed. I believe the commission, or the state library, whichever has the work in charge, should be given the opportunity to present the developments in their work at every association meeting, to state what library legislation is needed and then to have the active support of the association as a body, and of every individual librarian in securing that legislation, if in the opinion of the association the proposed legislation is beneficent. When a new legislator comes to the state capital, he is

surrounded by lobbyists, and inexperienced as he usually is, he knows not what to do. Nothing will so influence him as advice from home, and if library workers and their trustees will insist that sufficient money be appropriated for the development of library work over the state, the appropriation will be made.

The time has come when the association should set fair standards for hours of work and for salaries and then advocate those standards publicly and continuously. None of us desires to be measured with a financial yardstick, because few librarians are in the work for money returns alone, and still fewer of us receive sufficiently large salaries to be gauged by the generally accepted standards of measurement.

True, the advocacy of standards carries no enforcing authority, but where they have been set, a slow but constant influence for acceptance has been placed in operation. It is not that we demand better salaries merely for selfish or mercenary motives, but from the realization that the librarian does more than all else to make or mar her institution's success, and without fair salaries we cannot hope to attract to our ranks those strong, capable people who bring out the possibilities that lie in library work. Even librarians are worthy of their hire, though they may not rank with the more appreciated bakers or printers.

The standards for entrance into library work are high. Personality, an education and some library training usually are required of all candidates for librarianship. Two of our library schools even insist on a college degree for admission to their two years' arduous courses in library school training. Another school requires,

\*Read at the meeting of the Colorado library association, Denver, November 27, 1911.

in addition to other qualifications, a reading knowledge of at least German, French and Latin.

In a Middle-West state, where a fair number of the librarians are from these discriminating schools, the average yearly salary of the trained librarian three years ago was \$59.22 a month, or \$710.64 a year, as compared to \$881.92 received annually by the bookbinder, \$884 by the baker, \$932.88 by the compositor in print and \$1,196 by His Worship, the stone-cutter.

It is without great partiality that I say librarians, with teachers and social workers, constitute a body who for high ideals, unselfishness and poor financial returns are in a class by themselves. The social workers connected with religious organizations usually have some financial support assured them in old age, or when incapacitated for active life. Teachers are wretchedly underpaid, but in many cities pensions are provided them through their own organizations, or by the municipality, and some of them are eligible for notice from the Education endowment fund.

Unless librarians are classed with teachers, which is sometimes done, no provision whatever is made for them. The principal of a city school frequently receives twice the salary of the librarian, who has a vacation of from two weeks to a month, as compared to nearly three months' vacation granted the teacher, who does not have to be at her place of work several nights every week and frequently on Sunday as do most librarians.

Librarians prefer fair salaries to eligibility for pensions, but a state of passive receptivity is not conducive to this.

The agitation for increased pay for teachers has been taken up by the press all over the land, but this was not done until the teachers themselves publicly demanded better wages.

None of us favor a library union with an arbitrary scale of salaries, but our associations should stand for higher standards of work and better pay. This is not charity, but justice. The best library work demands a certain tranquility

of mind and assurance, but few librarians can maintain either, if, in their later years particularly, an uncertain future stands before them like a disturbing specter.

Another duty of our associations at their meetings should be to endeavor to inculcate a sense of pride and a professionalism in the library worker which will be contagious. Librarians are suffering from the very newness of their work and we should hasten to classify ourselves among the professional workers in our communities and not relinquish this to those who know little of our work and its demand. No campaign of publicity or insistent aggressiveness will be necessary. If our associations stimulate a professional pride, it will be carried by the librarian back to her own townspeople, some of whom may regard the librarian as a genteel sort of person occupying a place between a clerk and a lady of leisure.

The spiritually meek may inherit the earth, but the meek professionally are more likely to inherit indifference at best. More than one librarian has been ignored and her advice disregarded, not because she lacked technical equipment, but because she lacked the professionalism and influence to make her position understood and respected.

A librarian of my acquaintance was a university graduate with three years' library experience, during which time she failed to recognize herself as a woman of profession. The *Library Journal*, PUBLIC LIBRARIES and publications of the American library association failed to interest her, as did library workers as a class, as she never associated with them nor belonged to her state organization. The details in her technical work were well done, but her trustees evidently concluded that a librarian's place was not of great importance, for when the young woman in question resigned, the library janitor was appointed to fill the vacancy.

In contrast to this lack of impression by librarians may be cited one in charge of the library in a wealthy club. The members were leading business and professional workers, but like many busy

men they knew comparatively little of modern library work and its requirements. The librarian selected for the club realized that she could be of little service professionally to the members without first winning their respect professionally. At 11 o'clock, the first morning of the new librarian's assumption of work, she was summoned to lunch with the information that lunch was served at that hour to employes. She went to the servants' dining-room, where for half an hour, in company with the man from the cigar booth, the housekeeper, the manicurist and telephone girl, she consumed boiled beef and potatoes.

The librarian was not snobbish, but she determined at once to disabuse the club's idea regarding the position of librarian and the place of her work. She thereafter refused lunch in the servants' room, positively but courteously refused to act as club stenographer, or to give information to incapacitated members who wished exact directions as to the location of the club bar.

Her own respect for her work and position was contagious and without delay her lunch was served in the ladies' dining-room, and soon the library-room was changed from a dormitory, where the well-fed members dozed after dinner, into a reading and reference room of value to the club.

In states where library work is new and not thoroughly understood, it is a first duty of a state library association to broaden its activities. Until three years ago one middle western association did little more than reconsider the same questions every seven years, as did the old-time lesson leaf in Sunday school. It now assists the library commission at all library institutes and has a committee to coöperate with the commission. It conducted a special investigation as to librarians' salaries, their vacations, sick leave and hours of work, the results of which investigation it placed in the library commission office for use. It encouraged the establishment of a state trustees' organization, and last winter took such active part in library legisla-

tion that every library bill advocated by the association was passed by the legislature and every bill opposed was defeated.

To be of influence in any state, the state association needs the enrollment and active support of every worker. Personally, I should not be inclined to appoint any library worker to a vacancy who was not a member of the state library association. Non-membership in itself is not so serious, but such a disinterested librarian, to my eye, resembles a person with an asymmetrical face. Such a violation of our Greek ideas of physical beauty in an individual as this, is in itself not important, but we know that such violations of our standards frequently indicate mental eccentricities and perversities also.

Not only do we need increased numbers, but a greater realization of our responsibilities as social forces. A visitor from Mars might infer that, with lace-makers, we spent our energies in working out minute designs, devoting our lives to little intricacies where deftness, neatness, precision and dispatch were the most requisite qualifications for success. Desirable as these are, they will never make libraries great coöperating forces with the public schools, the salvation of thousands of boys and girls whose energies need directing, the means of increased earning power to workers with head or hands and one of several great forces capable of lifting entire communities to higher thinking and living. We should invite representatives from teachers' associations, social settlement and other organizations to appear on our programs, and we should welcome opportunities to present library activities to these associations that more coöperation may result. An isolation which separates us from these allied forces makes our libraries mere ornaments on the municipal machine instead of live steam which helps to make the wheels go round. Collectively and individually, we must realize that no library worker can live to himself. In the words of Miss Evans, of the Minnesota library commission, "A librarian who is nothing but a librarian is no librarian."

### Architecture of Small Libraries\*

E. L. Tilton, architect, New York City

In his "Dissertation on Roast Pig," Charles Lamb relates how succulent was the resultant roast when the house burned down and thereafter the Chinaman deemed it necessary to burn down his house whenever he wanted roast pig, and as a prelude to this dissertation I might recommend the burning down of some library buildings without thereby intending to "roast" any librarian, since the structures recommended for destruction are mainly those which have been propagated by committees who have failed to admit a librarian to their councils, but who have conspired with an architect to glorify themselves by an impractical combination, consisting primarily of domes, columns, tin cornices and bronze tablets and very secondarily of space for books and readers. The result attained is neither a good building nor good art. It is trite to say that the best art is not self-conscious. The mind that conceived Shakespeare's great plays poured them forth without realizing the wonder they would inspire. It matters not whether we call Shakespeare, Bacon or Bacon, Shakespeare as far as the art is concerned, or whether Homer wrote his Epics or another man of the same name. Byron, unconscious, awoke to find himself famous and thus gaining self-consciousness, became less great. Michael Angelo created wonders with wonderful, unconscious artistic humility.

Rembrandt, Corot, Millet and all the great ones enjoyed but little self-gratification because too great to attain their ideals; trying to throw their great souls into visible forms, being compelled by some mysterious, omnipotent, energizing force, and leaving the result for our enjoyment, greater or less, in proportion to the size of our individual souls.

As relevant to the subject matter, I

\*Paper read before the convention of librarians of Ohio and Michigan at Cedar Point, O., September 4, 1911.

mean to infer that if an architect or committee attempt self-glorification the result is doomed to failure. To succeed they must start with that *sine qua non*, a competent librarian, and evolve through him and the architect, with pain and care, a building planned for its destination, to hold the books and readers, clothed in appropriate garb—I mean the building, not the readers.

The building's dress should be graceful but expressive of its functions and explanatory of its *raison d'être* not concealing its biblio muscles and arteries by too much overskirt. A sailor once explained that a ship was called "she" because the rigging cost more than the hull; a horrible libel of course and not applicable to the modern woman, except perhaps in the matter of hats, in respect of which it has been said that a woman's lack of humor is proven by her ability to look at her hat without laughing.

All this may seem desultory and yet libraries and femininity are closely allied since *biblio-thèque* is feminine like the graceful fine arts: *Peinture sculpture*, etc., whereas *commerce* and *metiers* are masculine, all of which accentuates the necessity of feminine activities in library affairs.

The unfortunate librarian who is handicapped by meddlesome officials is to be commiserated. Not long ago, being asked to make some impromptu remarks before a combined assembly of city councilmen and library board and aware of the unnecessary fetters with which the librarian was bound, I dwelt upon the importance of a modern librarian's post in a town and upon the wisdom of giving a freedom of control equal to that accorded to the fire chief or police head; for it is surely of greater moment to a community to ignite its mental fires than to extinguish the physical ones; to give freedom to the mind than to imprison the body. I learned later some seeds took root, although, like alfalfa, they were forced to go deep for sustenance.



This is the era for the standardizing of everything—master car-builders are at it for railways, tracks, coupler-buffers and trucks; boards of education and college trustees are standardizing the mental requirements of the youth for matriculation, graduation and post graduation; our spiritual and physical meat, drink and drugs are standardized by wily doctors and Dr Wileys so that no apology may be necessary to introduce a little standardizing of library matters outside of what the Library Bureau, Dean Brett and others have already accomplished. Mine refers to a standardized computation of the cost of a building in relation to its seating capacity for readers and to its volume capacity, allowing 30 square feet floor space to each reader, as full capacity in rooms allotted to reading and reference purposes, then \$500 per reader should easily cover the cost of an average suitable building and permit the inclusion of a lecture room and all the necessary elements and accessories.

Comparative volume cost depends upon the type of building; stack or open shelf. The first type brings book to reader, the second reader to book; if stack be used and wall shelving in reading rooms, the stack capacity can be computed at 20 volumes per square foot stack floor space, for each tier of seven shelves and the cost of building at one dollar per volume to be housed. If the open shelf and wall shelving type be adopted, two dollars per volume capacity will be required. The open shelf idea like young Lochinvar came out of the west, and of all the ideas this one was the best.

Gerald Stanley Lee in his "Lost Art of Reading" bemoans the inaccessibility of books in the stack type, whereby it becomes necessary to charge a barricade of pretty girl librarians and then have the book swing out to one as by a derrick, instead of being able to browse untethered in the rich pasture.

Of course in a large city it may be justifiable, at any rate it is done, to

pay for monument as well as library, as for example in New York where nine million dollars will house, all told in stacks and rooms, only four and one-half million volumes; that is, four and one-half million dollars might have sufficed for a good working library, the other four and one-half million dollars were contributed to the building's monumental attributes and possibly to prevent its working too well; since a nine-millionaire needs work but half as hard as a four and one-half-millionaire.

Mr. Utley may tell us the cost of Chicago's library, including its stairway, in relation to the books and to what extent it may hamper the library's work and how many foot pounds of energy are consumed, either by elevator or individual effort on the stairs, in raising every reader from street to delivery room level. One hundred people, averaging only 120 lbs. each, would represent six tons to be raised, and think of the hundreds of six tons lifted daily; lost energy enough to run a mill. But maybe the compensation sufficeth in a beautiful \$250,000 marble stair enriched with Opus Alexandrinum mosaics. Mr. Carnegies might say sell it and buy some branches. All of this sounds cynical, for after all I am an architect and those of my profession were doubtless largely responsible.

When a building, as before stated, costs about \$2 for every volume housed therein, the cost of interest and maintenance averages about 35c per volume, which represents the minimum annual average expense of each book upon the shelves. Or to put it in another way 25,000 volumes will require a \$50,000 building. Add for expense of land say \$5,000, making building and land cost \$55,000 on which interest at 5 per cent amounts to \$2,750. To this add annual upkeep charges such as salaries, light, heat, etc., say \$6,000, or total of \$8,750 for 25,000 volumes, or an average amount of 35 cents per volume as a minimum

for a small library. Every increase of 5,000 volumes would probably compel the addition of another assistant to the library staff with other increases of upkeep and at 35 cents would automatically give \$1,750 to pay for such.

The cost of a building resolves itself at the last analysis into a question of the price of labor. Nature gives all the materials, the clay for brick and terra cotta; the stone for cement; trees for wood, etc. But when a librarian wants a building the trouble begins, like the sequence of the old woman driving her pig to market. The librarian goes to the committee, who go to the architect, who goes to the builder, who goes to the dealer, who goes to the manufacturer, who goes to the owner, who has pre-empted the working of human laws, Nature's free clay beds, stones and forests and taxes the manufacturer. Then labor does the rest all along the line so that the clay turned to brick and laid up for the librarian costs, say \$20 per thousand, of which labor gets three-fourths and brains the rest. In a land where labor is cheaper, the brick would cost in wall proportionately less, but the librarian would be no happier, since the demand for books would be less and so the law of compensation holds sway.

The cost per cubic foot of a building, thoroughly fireproofed throughout, including floors and roof and faced with stone or even marble, can be brought to 30 cents and including best stacks and equipment to 35 cents. A non-fireproof brick and terra cotta building well finished, 20 to 25 cents, and in some cases a little under 20 cents. Of the total appropriation it is well to allow about 80 per cent for the building and 20 per cent for equipments, fees, etc.

The location of branch buildings in towns of the second or third classes is probably best determined by the condition geographical, topographical or racial, and the size and cost of building by the number of population in the section to be served reckoned roughly

at about two dollars per capita. A city of about 300,000 population and covering say an area of 30 square miles would have possibly one-third of the people served directly by the central building, leaving 200,000, or about 7,000 people per square mile beyond the center, and each branch might serve four square miles, i. e., a mile each way from the branch, or 28,000 people, requiring therefore in the city a total of seven branches. Business centers also control the location of branches.

To focus attention for a few minutes upon a few principles of design. In a design one part should predominate; or be made to appear to do so. Simplicity, the most difficult quality to attain, gives the best result in building as it does in speech where a simple Saxon word is to be preferred to a compound word which often confounds rather than elucidates the meaning.

Since books appeal to the highest instincts the library building should be expressive of such appeal and withal be endowed with charm by good design and proper setting, aided by such simple ingredients as vines seasoned, where possible, with a few flowers selected for color and planted in mass about the base of the building. The architecture should become richer as it goes upward until it blossoms out into the frieze and cornice, whereas the planting naturally complements that by being fullest at the base whence the vines grow upward, commingling the elements of masonry and horticulture by appropriate training.

If a plan be functionally organized, the elevations will develop readily and the building be economically constructible. For an artistic result the parts of the plan as well as the façade should be arranged to produce charm and what is known as "scale."

Scale is based on the human figure which does not vary, but remains a constant unit of measure and therefore in buildings large and small a balus-

trade has a fixed height. The proper application of scale conveys the actual size of structure. A large room should be preceded by a smaller compartment, or one of differing shape and proportions and the direction of the axes of two connecting rooms may well be differently orientated. The essence of architectural art consist in good planning; elevations depend on individual taste and may be developed in many different styles. But of course the taste needs training. From a historic viewpoint, probably the most appropriate style for a library building is one inspired by the Transition or Renaissance periods and certain adaptations of Gothic. The original Gothic mind was not occupied with ideas of a general distribution of knowledge, but rather with the guarding of learning within cloistered walls, whereas the Renaissance spirit savored of our "Free for All" library motto. Greek and Roman classic models are appropriate for monumental buildings, but their effect depends largely upon columns and expensive detail, proscribing their use for the average everyday library, which is a book laboratory and should have an appropriate expression. The Renaissance offers types of beauty without columns and their concomitant features, while it typifies science, art, religion and all things born of modern thoughts and progress.

Were the old Greek artists to design for us today they would not copy exactly their works of 25 centuries ago. It is easy and really cheap art to take the columns and the doorway of the Eretheion, for instance, and plant them against the bottom of a skyscraper enlarged several times so that the refined delicacy of the original is lost and with a false logic explain in a loud voice, that if the Eretheion doorway is good, one enlarged fourfold must be so much better.

In one of our cities alongside of such a noisy exhibition is another building styled a library with marble balustrades, exedrae, columns, large

vestibule, stairs, etc., all of which is magnificent, but is not library. It requires considerable acumen and search to find the books.

The feet of a building like that of a statue should be concealed or brought into harmony with its base. The hard line produced by the intersection of horizontal plane of the ground with the vertical plane of the building should be eliminated or softened by flowers and planting. Let the structure grow as though nurtured by Nature, the hard stones, clay and wood trained into harmony with the softer elements which delight the eye with color, as the building should with its form and lines. This idea is exemplified by the Woodland branch at Cleveland.

It is not necessary to dwell upon details since every problem requires special solution. In general, it is essential to work from within, outward and after the plan and interior are arranged to satisfy the librarian's needs and requirements, then whether the exterior be swathed in a hobble skirt or a flowing robe may depend somewhat upon the fashion and the purse, but the more the natural outlines are preserved the more satisfactory will be the result.

A word about heating. In order to eliminate objectionable radiators from the reading rooms it is possible to arrange a satisfactory way of connecting pipe coils back of wall shelving and seats, properly insulated, and made accessible for repair, and with registers at bottom of cases or simply by standing the cases on legs.

The lighting of a library building is very important and may best be based upon the school room requirements of glass area equaling 20 per cent of floor area. Where windows are insufficient to attain this result, owing to shelving or other cause, skylights may be used supplementarily.

Top lighting has the advantage also of diffusing the illumination. Skylights should be in north slope of roof, or if roof be flat should be sawtooth form

to prevent sun striking directly in. With artificial illumination, similar laws should prevail. Evenly distributed electric lighting which illumines the reading rooms throughout with equal effect and avoids strong concentration in small groups is desirable. Reflected light is the best.

The ideal to strive for is to make the building, its setting, and its decorations all serve as educational factors to instruct by beauty or line, form and color and co-operate with the books on its shelves to develop the receptive minds. At Cleveland tiles about the fireplaces are useful adjuncts to teach the children.

Some time music may be added to cultivate the ear. We have all experienced the sensation of reading a poem or book while listening to fine music and how thereafter each is associated, so that whenever the book is re-read it recalls the music and vice-versa.

Poetic instincts are possessed by everyone in greater or less degree. Everyone's senses subtend an arc or gamut of harmony, in color and sound, which may be enlarged by cultivation and every day should produce an advance, *Nulla dies sine linea* is a good motto.

Even among painters there are limitations. Few have had such an extended color sense as Titian nor of form as Michael Angelo. In fact some people are color blind and others may be form blind.

The fine art books should be supplemented by reproductions on the walls of the works of masters, ancient and modern, in photographs and plaster casts, so the eye may feast while the mind absorbs. Ruskin's *Modern Painters* cannot be appreciated until one has seen a Turner. Symonds' essays on the Renaissance needs to be illustrated by pictures of the works of that wonderful age. Winckelmann is only appreciated after one has seen the classic statues of the Greek reproduced in plaster where the originals are beyond

reach. Books on architecture are less intelligible without access to models of great building. The function of the library small as well as great, is limitless, in fact a small library may be greater proportionately in its influence, when controlled by a broad-minded librarian, since the inhabitants of a small town have fewer opportunities to bring themselves within the influences which instruct eye, ear and mind, and therefore need to have these influences brought within the radii of their daily lives. The library as an educational factor is greater than the schools.

The size of a building does not preclude it from being made a work of art. A miniature may exceed in merit a colossus, although the latter by sheer size may command greater wonder from the vulgar, but in time refinement triumphs over grossness. The works of Mino da Fiesole and Lucca della Robbia hold pre-eminence over the heroic statues of the Decadence and the loss of the Mona Lisa of Leonardo is bewailed where a Giulio Romano might scarcely have been missed. No building is too small not to warrant the greatest effort being made to produce the best attainable result.

The recent death in New York of Henry Snowden Ward, the distinguished English lecturer, will be sincerely deplored by many librarians who will remember with pleasure his courteous attention to them as American librarians during the visit to Stratford at the time of the second international library congress. His delightful lectures on Dickens and Shakespeare have been popular literary features of this season; and one of his latest acts was the preparation of an illuminating article for *Lippincott's Magazine* on "Charles Dickens and women," which will be published when the Dickens centenary is due. The death of Mr. Ward so close to that of Alfred Tennyson Dickens, son of Charles Dickens, while both were traveling in America is rather a sad coincidence.

## What Shall We Do with the Book Agents?\*

At first thought this brings to our mind people who intrude upon our busiest hours, try our patience perhaps, and sell us books that we don't want at any price and other books that we don't want at such high prices. We blame the book agents for these difficulties; yet when we buy in the regular markets and get what we don't want or pay too much, we don't put the blame upon the shops, but upon ourselves for exercising poor judgment. Can we not consider this subject of book agents in a business-like fashion? What are the real difficulties of dealing with them and what are the advantages of having them come to us? We all know the college students trying to make provision for the expenses of the next year's college course, and the pitiful old ladies trying to make provision for the necessities of life. Both of these bring us books that we know we do not need and do not want, yet we are likely to give them more or less patronage for their own sakes or to feel badly if we don't. Then there are the young men who condescendingly instruct experienced librarians in the most elementary knowledge of reference books, and endeavor to prove to them that the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* is materially inferior to whatever cyclopedia they happen to be advertising. The occasional agent who is over-argumentative and more or less ill-mannered, really defeats his own interests and advances ours, by promptly making us feel that we will not buy his goods at any price.

Outside of all these we have callers from able, intelligent men and women showing us valuable reference books and choice illustrated works that it seems that we must have, and some of which we really need. Or these efficient callers bring us opportunities

of examining publications that are samples of the real bargains sent out by some dealer in bargain books.

The value to us of book agents is this opportunity to examine desirable works, and to see the book bargains, that are brought to our desks at other times in advertisements only. The only other way for those of us in the small cities and still smaller towns to see these works is by making trips to the large libraries and book stores in the large city, and this would take much more of our time than the agents do.

It is a fact, however, that the most expensive way of buying subscription books is to buy of the book agent. We all know how the bargain catalogs tell us of subscription sets, "publishers' price, \$150, our price \$80," etc., etc. You may remember that in 1910 the Appleton Co. offered their *New Practical Cyclopedia* at \$18 for the six volumes, selling it only through book agents, but now they are selling the same work in the open market at \$9.75.

But the greatest difficulty of all is this. Think of another line of shopping. You know how tempting the salesman makes the beautiful new dress goods as he drapes them in graceful folds, places the trimmings with them, and altogether makes one feel so intensely that one must have that beautiful new dress, whatever it costs, that it takes a great effort to break away from the fascinations of the counter and go home and think carefully over the needs of the wardrobe and the size of the pocket book before deciding about the purchase.

Have you read Walter Dill Scott's little book on "Influencing men in business?" These business men are making a careful study of the psychology of selling goods. They are investigating the selling power of suggestion, persuasion, and of showing beautiful things. They teach the method of talking and exhibiting the fine points of the book, to their most intelligent and attractive agents; and

\*From address before Illinois library association, Joliet, October 11, 1911.



a great part of the books that we buy from agents, to our after regret, we find that we really bought because we were fairly hypnotized into doing so. The advice given to small libraries by the Committee on Book-buying is "Never buy of book agents." I believe that medium-sized libraries might better make this rule: Never buy of book agents at the first interview. The first interview gives us an opportunity to see the book, learn its best points, and find the cash price of the book agent. Then we can learn more of its intrinsic value from the libraries larger than our own, which already own and use the work, from the editor of the *A. L. A. Book List* who kindly offers such assistance, and from book reviews. We shall frequently find, before this investigation has been completed, that our library does not need the work. If it does need it we can correspond with reliable dealers in second-hand books. The library journals give a list of these in their advertising pages. Sometimes the agents will meet the prices of the bargain dealer, while a few subscription books can only be purchased from agents.

The book agent does not want to wait for a second interview. It interferes with his psychological methods. Here the librarian will find great protection in having so large a list of books that she knows she needs, that she really feels exceedingly unwilling to let any funds be used up on any other books if she can possibly get along without them.

The smaller the library the less it needs subscription books, and the better it can wait for real bargains in important ones. Some copies are almost sure to reach the second-hand dealer in time, even if they are not eventually put upon the open market.

One thing more. While watching for genuine book bargains, don't be deceived by false ones. There are inferior cyclopedias published under a variety of titles. Only buy well-known cyclopedias recommended by equally

well-known authorities. There are old editions of standard reference books that should only be purchased by those who can afford a collection of old editions. Don't confuse the New International with the International, or the ninth or tenth edition of the Britannica with the eleventh.

There are good books printed on extravagantly heavy paper, with large type, showy illustrations and fancy binding, that are just as interesting and much less expensive in a plainer style.

So we find that we can get good encyclopedias at a variety of prices, and that we can do a great deal for our libraries at a reasonable expense.

We can treat book agents as we would any other business men. Examine their wares and consider them well before buying. Remember that we can't afford and really don't need a great many things that would be nice to have. Remember, too, that we prefer to buy for good reason and not because we are hypnotized into it. If we buy because we are sorry for the agents and want to help them, we should put that down to our charity fund and not to library expenses.

ANGE V. WILNER.

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Do not refuse to buy a book because one or more people object to it. What no one objects to is probably valueless. A vital book, like a person of any vitality, is sure to antagonize some one.

Reasonable objections should be courteously met and answered. The most earnest supporters of the library movement will be among the broad-minded men of self-education who realize the difficulties in this method and want to make the process less difficult; and among the parents of large families who can do little more individually than to meet the every-day material needs of their children, and welcome a co-operative movement which will make the necessary books possible.

### On Collecting Fines in a Library

In the matter of fines probably all librarians have similar experiences, delightful or otherwise. How we groan within when the door opens and the habitual late-comer enters! And there are many of them. The heart of the desk assistant is filled by turns with pity and disgust, now and then with gratitude, for there is occasionally someone who pays his fine without complaint, says he is glad to help the library that much and really does not look as though he expects the money to go toward the librarian's spring suit.

But such patrons are not legion and, if you are a desk assistant, you have my sympathy in this part of your work. What an array of humanity passes before you!

Here is a poorly dressed child with a copy of "Little women" under her arm. She has been reveling in this story of girls, who, like herself, had to do without the little luxuries their friends enjoyed. Perhaps for the first time her eyes have been opened to the fact that there is no life without its romance. So charmed has she been with the revelation that she has read the story twice over and so has kept the book too long. She has not understood that it must be returned by a certain date, and it breaks your heart to charge the fine, though it is only a few cents.

Here is a tiny girl who has lost Grimm's fairy tales. She tells you she will bring the cost as soon as she can. She does not even give you a reproachful glance, but as she turns away, you see the tears in her eyes. What a wretch you feel!

She has scarcely gone when a young woman appears with some copies of *The Craftsman*. She is a seamstress, but you happen to know that her sewing days are almost ended and that magazines devoted to house plans are the one form of literature in which she indulges at present. So wrapped up is she in this particular subject of research that she has failed to return what she has

borrowed until you have sent her special word. She is naturally a little disgusted with the fine. She says that it is "All right, of course." She doesn't blame you at all, but thinks it a little strange you have never mentioned the fact that back numbers of magazines can not be kept indefinitely. When you point to the seven-day mark, she answers, "Well, who would ever see that?" That one should notice a thing like that shows a petty spirit!

All the world loves a lover, it seems, except you, the desk assistant. You must harden your heart, frown a little to keep up your courage and demand the money which should have gone toward the trousseau. If the truth were known, however, perhaps you do retire into the recesses of the office at your first opportunity to spill a few tears over the episode for this little seamstress is a particular pet of yours and it is hard to change from a human being who would forgive a delay to a machine which heartlessly enforces a rule.

Next comes the well-to-do woman who scornfully hands you her "overdue postal" with her book and says, "Perhaps I'll pay part of it sometime, but I can't pay such a big fine." You gently suggest that hereafter she return her books on time and so avoid such unpleasant results.

"Why, I simply can't remember," she retorts, and looks at you as though it were entirely your fault that she is not gifted with a good memory.

So it goes. Always and always the patrons who from carelessness or misunderstanding fail to live up to the rules till at last you cease to be sympathetic and grow a little bitter about the whole subject.

The other evening I was writing notes for the local papers in regard to the paying of fines. I was tempted to include the following lines, but feared they would seem rather undignified in the midst of serious library news and so contented myself with prose. However I thought some other librarians might

appreciate the feelings which inspired, perhaps I should say, provoked the following:

Step up lively, pay yo' fine!  
Else you ain't no frien' o' mine.  
Ef you ain't a-gwine to pay,  
'Tain't no use to stan' an' pout,  
Might as well go trottin' out,  
Hang yo' haid an' run away.  
You-ain't gwine to hev no book.  
Lay it down, de one you've took.  
Ef you kick on actin' squah,  
You kin go widout, so dah!

Lib'ary boad done say to us,  
"Gin him nothin' till he's paid,  
Eb'ry debt dat he hab made."  
So dah ain't no use to fuss,  
Ain't no use to scold an' whine,  
Step up lively, pay yo' fine!

### An Inexcusable Delinquency

The Technological Museum,  
Sydney, December 5, 1911.

To the Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

From the letter press I am sending you under separate cover it will be seen that this institution issues from time to time scientific literature, mostly of a technological character. Recently an important and costly work, octavo quarto, comprising 458 pages and 410 illustrations was completed and exchange copies have been forwarded (upon application) to kindred institutions, universities and scientific societies the world over, and duly and courteously acknowledged. And now I come to the crux of my letter, viz.—the system in vogue in libraries in general, the card system.

A number of libraries having seen or heard of this work have made a request for a copy on a formally printed *one cent postal card*,\* upon which deficient postage has had to be paid here. At first these were passed over and the request granted, the method of application being looked upon as a slip, but to round the joke off, the acknowledgments were also received on a one cent post card with deficient postage again.

\*The italics are the editor's.

The last mail has brought another batch of applications and in every case the libraries' requests were on *one cent post cards*—still deficient postage.

If I may be permitted to say so, I think it is carrying the card system to extremes when library authorities on a *one cent post card* ask for and expect to receive without any exchange whatever a \$20 book.

I know from experience that our American cousins are most generous in their distribution of scientific and other literature and their generosity leaves nothing to be desired, and yet whilst individuals and institutions make their desiderata known and acknowledge on a letter—most libraries resort to a *one cent post card*, which carries with it deficient postage "down under," which I am sure arises from want of postal knowledge, and it is not that which moves me to write, but it is the everlasting post card of the libraries.

I may be wrong, but it does seem to me that however much the card system may be a success in the internal working of a library, outside correspondence is worthy of something more than a *one cent post card*, especially when asking for and acknowledging costly publications. I am.

Yours truly,

R. T. BAKER, Curator.

### Moving Pictures in the Library

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

There is much more material to be gained for the power of the book in a moving picture show, properly conducted, than most librarians realize. We have found that the right use of moving pictures acts as a stimulus to serious reading.

The Tale of Two Cities and Vanity Fair presented here have given those classics a new lease on life, while Dante's Inferno has set our copies of that circulating in a manner entirely unprecedented even when the clubs have been studying it.

A number of people have "joined" the library just to get "Dante's Inferno," as one young man called it.

TEXAS LIBRARIAN.

### A Cordial Invitation

The Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The next annual meeting of the Library association (of the United Kingdom) will be held in the city of Liverpool, during the first week of September, 1912.

The situation of Liverpool and its intimate connections with America would seem naturally to point to this meeting as an Anglo-American one.

On behalf of the members of the Library association, as well as on behalf of the reception committee of the city of Liverpool, we beg to offer a most hearty invitation to American librarians to be present at this meeting.

It is hardly necessary to dilate upon the advantages of Liverpool for a meeting of this kind, nor to refer to the many places of interest in or near the city.

If any American librarian contemplating attending this meeting will notify *both* the undersigned of his intention, we will see that he is supplied with full information as to the programme of papers and as to the local arrangements. We are,

Yours faithfully,

L. STANLEY JAST.

Honary Secretary Library Association.  
24 Bloomsbury Square, London, W. C.

G. T. SHAW,

Honorary Local Secretary,  
Public Library, Liverpool.

### Children's Books for Christmas Gifts

An experiment in co-operative printing

Another illustration of co-operation in the printing of book lists has been furnished in the recent experiment of the Louisville free public library. It compiled a list entitled "Children's books for Christmas gifts," containing about 250 titles broadly classified under nine heads giving author, title, publisher and price

of each book. The aim of the list was not only to furnish suggestions for suitable Christmas gifts, but also to provide a brief list of books which could be recommended for children at any time.

After the printer had filled the order of this library the type was held and a special rate of \$7 a thousand plus postage was made to any library wishing copies of the list with its own imprint. Notice to that effect, together with a sample copy, was sent to the libraries on our mailing list, with the result that 30 other libraries and six state library commissions ordered 28,500 copies.

This is four times as many as were ordered two years ago, when the same plan was followed with a similar list.

The saving which can be effected in this way should commend the plan to all libraries. To compile the list, look after the printing, notify other libraries and fill the orders means of course no small amount of work for the library having it in charge. But if other libraries would do likewise with lists of their own compilation, the net result would be a distinct gain to all concerned.

In this library the books on the list were on exhibition from November 15 to December 25 in the teachers' room, which is on the second floor adjoining the children's room. There is no doubt that the exhibit would be more useful if placed on the first floor, where it would naturally come to the notice of all who enter the building. Nevertheless the evidences of its use for the immediate purpose intended were more numerous this season than last, and the demand for a short, handy and reliable list of this kind for general purposes is continuous.

WILLIAM F. YUST.

Louisville, Ky., December 23, 1911.

### Abraham Lincoln

For him her old world moulds aside she  
threw,  
And choosing sweet clay from the breast  
Of the unexhausted West,  
With stuff untainted shaped a hero new,  
Wise, steadfast in the strength of God, and  
true.  
—Lowell.

## Public Libraries

MONTHLY - EXCEPT AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$2 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$8 a year
Single number	- - - - -	25 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$2.25 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1897.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an Exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

When a change of address is ordered, both the new and the old address must be given. The notice should be sent two weeks before the change is to take effect.

If a subscriber wishes his copy of the magazine discontinued at the expiration of his subscription, notice to that effect should be sent. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

Copies failing to reach subscribers, through loss in the mails, will be duplicated without charge if request to do so is received within 30 days after publication. Later than that duplicate copies can be supplied only at regular rates.

**Concerning affiliation**—One of the questions submitted for discussion by Mrs Elmendorf, president of the American library association, at the mid-winter council meeting in Chicago, was the value of affiliated membership on the part of the American library association with other organized bodies and associations, having to do with social, charitable and civic development in the United States and Canada.

This is one of the suggestions which PUBLIC LIBRARIES has urged for a number of years, and certainly an examination of the programs of the recent holiday conventions of a number of organizations held in different parts of the country, would clearly show a place where the librarian might profitably be a listener, if he had no contribution to make to the development of the questions under discussion.

In the American economic association a very important question, ably discussed, was "Rural conditions in the

South," presented by Dr John L. Coulter and another, "The decline of rural population," by Professor B. H. Hibbard. The question of "Immigration," as discussed by various speakers, showed a field of usefulness that might be occupied by library service more effectively than it is at present. The American sociological society discussed the influences that contribute to true solidarity of mind and heart. Surely books are a contributory influence in this. The "boy gang," as discussed by Jane Addams of Hull House, would certainly have held a message for the children's librarian. "Recreation in rural communities," by C. W. Hetherington, was an outline for the development of the moral stability, social and mental flexibility required in a democracy. Here again the children's librarian would have found help. In the meeting of the American statistical society, there was a paper on the importance of uniform reporting. If there is any one thing in which library reports are misleading, not to say erroneous, it certainly is in the matter which library statistics are made to show.

Without going further into detail, it may be said without question, that while it is highly desirable that associations dealing with social and civic affairs should take more cognizance of the library and its place in the development of political affairs, it is advisable that library workers should get the view points and mental processes of those active in the societies dealing with outside matters that are clearly related to the development in the administration and power of the library.

**What's the time o'day?**—Regularly since 1876, the A. L. A., and with in-



creasing frequency sectional, state and local library organizations, have been holding meetings to discuss topics of professional or technical interest. As might be surmised from this bare statement, 35 years' discussion has resulted in monotony of programs, and to a decided going about in a circle as far as definite settlement of disputed questions is concerned. This does not mean that the meetings have been necessarily colorless; many have been full of vitality, inspiration and creative predication. Nor have there been wanting special addresses keyed high, and as eloquent in meaning today as when they were delivered. Of this type were Mr J. N. Larned's masterly "Missionaries of the book," Prof W. P. Trent's scholarly essay on "The literary old South," President Eliot's thought producing elegy on the books that are dead. A few—and all too rare—talks like that of Samuel M. Crothers on the "Convention of books," have seemed, too, to inject a bookish flavor that has been as a rule singularly absent at meetings which would naturally be presumed to be charged therewith. On the whole, however, it would be possible to name a baker's dozen of topics, chiefly minor in their application to broad tendencies, and to find at least one-half of them in practically every conference program concocted during the last decade and a half. A new note here and there has appeared, as new features of library work have developed—the rise of the state commissions, the growth and multiplication of library schools, the specialization of libraries, particularly as business and legislative adjuncts. It cannot be said, however, that these have been an outgrowth of the library conference.

Discussion has followed, rather than anticipated these.

If the recurrence of these self-same discussions along the self-same lines has been of some avail up to now, further repetition threatens to make their consideration not only tame, but fruitless. What in their day, and in their stimulating way were messages of import delivered by the prophets, now have become dull and platitudinous reiterations.

Would it not be well to note the time of day? Mr Hill recently with much force expressed the opinion that library conferences had grown too numerous for profitable attendance. Is there not also need for a fresher note in the discussions? Is there not need for a series of exhaustive, painstaking committee surveys, summarizing achievements and pointing the way? These should be not the hastily compiled figures obtained through the medium of eleventh hour questionnaires, but carefully worked out results after extensive and intensive study of facts, carrying in bases and in conclusions the stamps of verity and the tone of authority.

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**The Ottawa conference**—For a time it looked as if there would be yet further postponement of the next A. L. A. conference in Canada. The Chateau Laurier, at Ottawa, which has been in process of construction for three or four years, and upon the completion of which a meeting of any considerable size in Ottawa is dependent, was reported by no means finished when the secretary of the association visited there last September to look over the field. Recent reports, however, indicate that very satisfactory progress is being made and there is every indica-

tion that the hotel will be ready in plenty of time to accommodate us at our 1912 gathering.

On this side our imaginary line as well as on the other we are very glad indeed that we are again to meet officially as an association in Canada. Librarians of the dominion have always shown a hearty interest in all that pertains to the A. L. A. Canada has contributed a president to the association, several council members, a number of very efficient committee workers and many able contributions to PUBLIC LIBRARIES and other library publications of the United States. It is now twelve years since the A. L. A. held its last (and also its first) conference in Canada and it is high time that we were again accepting their oft proffered hospitality. Many library changes and much real progress have taken place since the Montreal conference of 1900. As an outgrowth of that conference the Ontario library association was organized and excellent work has been accomplished through this agency, not only in that particular province, but in other parts of the dominion as well. New library buildings have been erected in a number of places in the past decade, and many new libraries have been organized. All these elements of progress should contribute to the greater success of the approaching conference. The growth of libraries and library interest has been especially noticeable in the western provinces—in the broad prosperous "wheat belt" and on the Pacific slope. This past year British Columbia played the host to the Pacific Northwest library association in the pretty little city of Victoria, and those

who were fortunate enough to be present have not yet ceased talking of the good time they had.

It would be a great mistake if any of us from "the states" should visit our Canadian cousins in the spirit of library instructors. The best of their libraries are equal in every respect to the best of ours; many of their librarians have not lacked for technical training and experience; and along lines of general education the Canadian standard in some ways is higher than ours. There should be benefit to librarians of both countries in such a gathering. The most beneficial feature at any conference is the opportunity afforded for individual workers to get together and informally discuss mutual problems and compare notes. This opportunity will be exceptionally valuable at the Ottawa meeting because many Canadian librarians will there be brought together who have not heretofore attended the A. L. A. conferences. The attendance at the Montreal meeting in 1900 was recorded as 452. Let us make our next Canadian conference not only larger in numbers and in the attendant enthusiasm, but let us make it evidence the spirit of progress in the last decade and let the results be of enduring value to the library work of both countries.

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Editorial management of PUBLIC LIBRARIES for the next two issues will be in charge of Miss Electra C. Doren of Dayton, O., well known in the library profession. The interests of the readers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, it is needless to say, will receive careful attention at her hands.

## The New Building of St. Louis Public Library

The dedication of the new Public library building of St. Louis was made an occasion of note by the city, and library authorities of St. Louis, on January 6. A large audience filled the auditorium of the library.

The addresses were made by prominent speakers. The principal address was by Dr Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress. He paid a tribute to the late Mr Crunden, who he said "gave to the library a wealth of patient, passionate, personal public service."

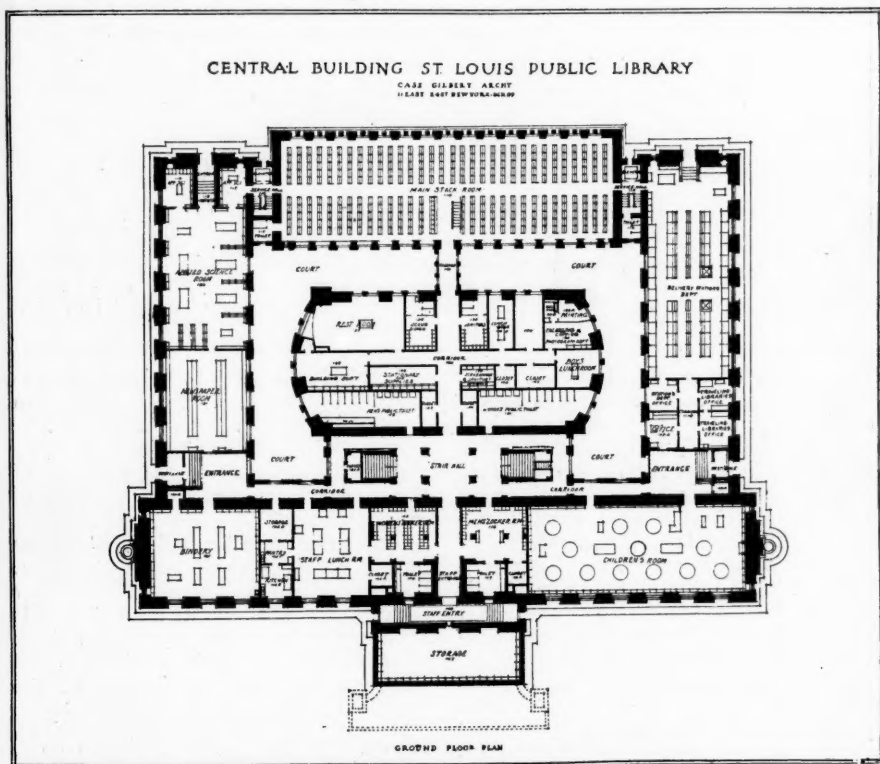
The representative of the Mayor of St. Louis spoke of the library as an indication of the culture of the people

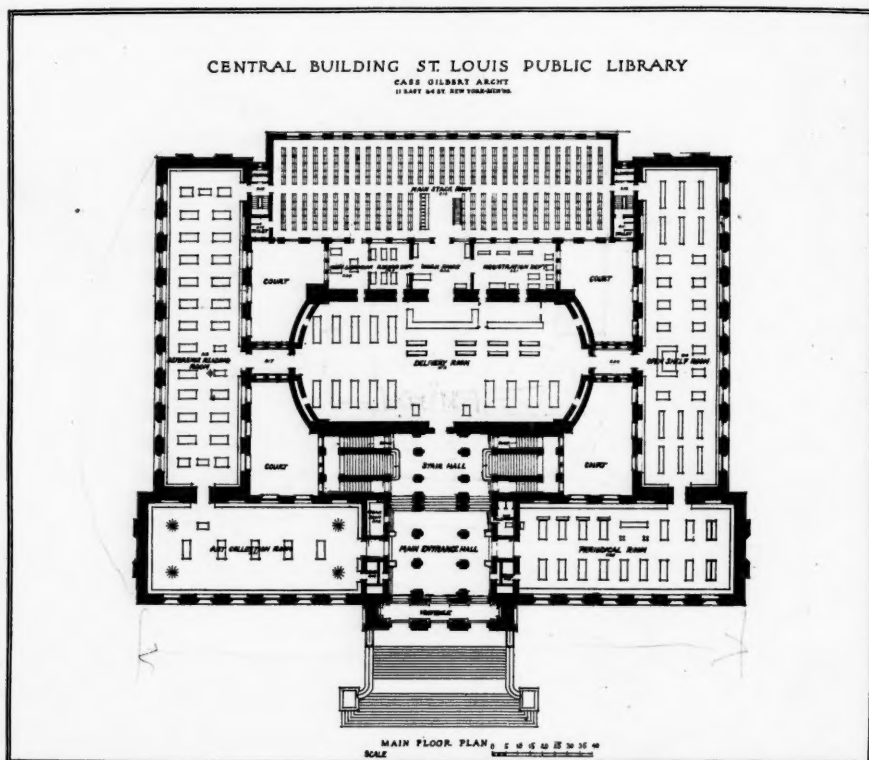
of the city, declaring that nothing is so indicative of the culture of a people as its schools, and depositories of human thought.

John F. Lee, chairman of the building committee, eulogized Mr Crunden, and stated that the trustees had endeavored, as far as permissible, to make the new building a monument and a memorial of his love and service to his fellow men.

The process of the delivery of the keys on the part of Cass Gilbert of New York, architect of the building, and their receipt by George O. Carpenter, president of the board of directors, was an interesting event.

Dr Bostwick, librarian, spoke of the desire of the library staff to perform the greatest possible public service.





Archbishop Glennon, paid a tribute to the library workers, and spoke of them as the "Little fathers of St. Louis, intellectually," emphasizing their power to mold the minds of the community.

Visiting librarians on the occasion were Dr Frank P. Hill, librarian of Brooklyn; George H. Locke, librarian of Toronto; C. H. Gould, McGill university, Montreal; C. W. Andrews of the John Crerar library, Chicago; William H. Brett, librarian of Cleveland; P. B. Wright, librarian of Kansas City, and H. O. Severance of the University of Missouri.

At the close of the exercises the visitors were shown over the various departments of the library, which all united in pronouncing beautiful in de-

sign and coloring, and a model in construction.

"Experts say the soft and unobtrusive beauty of the new building are surpassed by those of few buildings in the world. Despite the intricate designs of the marble and oak appointments, the uniformity and grace of the decorations form a masterpiece of color harmony."

The building is located on what was formerly known as Missouri Park, but does not come up to any of the four streets on which it faces, so that it is surrounded by open space. On three sides there are paved and balustrated terraces. Quite a good part of the northern half of the grounds is being laid out by the city as a sunken garden. Handsome bronze candelabra

along the granite steps and walks add much to the beauty of the setting.

The cost of the building in round numbers was \$1,500,000. Of this sum \$500,000 was given by Andrew Carnegie, and the remainder was taken from funds of the library. The site, contributed by the city, is valued at perhaps, one million dollars more.

The building is in the style of the late Italian renaissance, with three stories, cellar and sub-cellar, and consists of five pavilions, one on each side and one in the center of the rectangle thus formed.

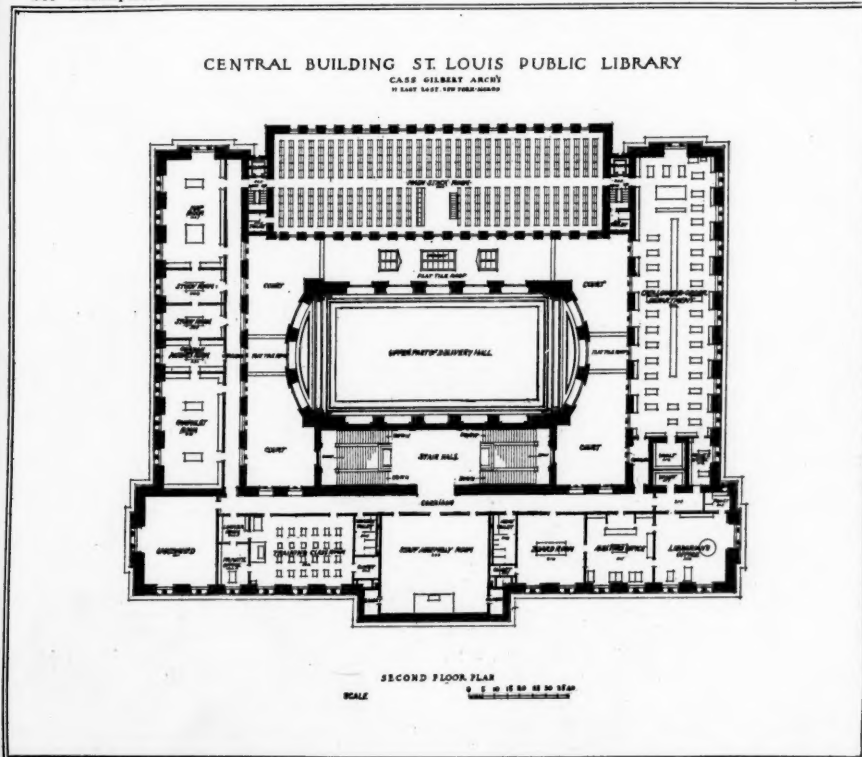
The ground floor is architecturally treated as a basement, and the floor above this, is the main floor. As seen from the outside, the building surrounded by its terraces, and approached by a flight of steps leading from Olive

street up to the main floor, shows a basement story with square windows, a high main story with arched windows, and an attic story with square windows like those in the basement.\* The main entrance consists of three large arches at the head of the outer stairway, and a staff entrance on the ground floor immediately underneath, reached by two doors on the side of this stairway. There are in addition four other ground floor entrances.

Carving and inscriptions occupy prominent and suitable places on the four sides of the building, consisting of circular medallions, small carved panels and shields bearing devices, or names of eminent writers and suitable inscriptions. There are seven of these last on the outside of the building.

Passing through the bronze grilled

\*See frontispiece.





gates at the front entrance, one comes to an outer lobby, and beyond this into a large rectangular hall with marble walls, columns and floor with vaulted ceiling, decorated in fresco. Opening out of this is the art room on the left and the periodical reading room on the right.

The best and largest room in the library is the delivery hall. It occupies the full length and width of the central division, and is two stories high. The walls and floors are of Tennessee marble. The high arched windows are of translucent cathedral glass, slightly yellowish in tone. The ceiling is of molded plaster decorated in dull gold, picked out with color. Directly in front is the delivery and registration counter. The room communicates by means of short passage from right and left, with the open shelf room in the east division and the reference room on the west.

The reference room on the left occupies the west division and has a ceiling of decorated wooden beams, painted to represent old work, separated by narrow strips of plaster. The room has wall shelves for 10,000 books, and communicates directly with the stack, where the greater collection is shelved. Opening from this room is the art room, where shelves along the wall contain the library's valuable collection of books on fine-art. In the open shelf room are about 25,000 volumes on wall shelves and on floor shelves.

On the floor beneath is the children's room, beautifully and properly decorated, and furnished. There is no contact at any point between the children's department and that of the adult users. At the west end is the commodious staff room, news rooms, with standing desk for much-used papers and the applied science room. This last has a separate entrance from the street, and a convenient entrance to the book stack and the reference department just above. On the upper floor there are quarters for the staff, assembly

rooms, also available for public meetings, and quarters for the library training-school.

The whole of the east wing on this floor is occupied by the cataloging department. There are also on this floor pamphlet rooms, map rooms, patents and several other rooms available for students and investigators.

The whole of the rear, or north division on all floors is devoted to the storage of books and is therefore entirely filled with a structure built of steel and glass. There are seven stack floors, and an extra one in the cellar. They are connected by stairways and elevators. There are also vertical book-lifts. The shipping and receiving rooms are in the cellar under the ground, as well as rooms for storage, and the heating and ventilating plant. The boilers are still below this in the sub-cellar, also space for a dynamo-room, when it shall be needed.

Much could be said of the decorations, and still no adequate idea of its beauty and extent be given. To quote "the purpose of the decorative painter has been to complete the plaster surfaces of the interior in spirit with the architect's evident intention—'to play softly, as an oaten pipe, rather than to bray upon brass or to clash the loud cymbals'."

The building is lighted with electricity. Heating is furnished by steam and a hot water plant, on both the direct and indirect systems. There are in the building 30 electric motors for this purpose varying in capacity and furnishing altogether 42 horsepower.

#### The Staff Dedication at St. Louis Public Library

The staff of the St. Louis public library celebrated the occasion of the first meeting in the new building in an interesting and unique fashion. The meeting was held on Thursday evening after 9 o'clock, so all members of the staff would be able to attend. About 100

members with a few friends gathered on the ground floor and proceeded in turn to each of the rooms on the various floors, preceded by a herald attired in appropriate medieval garb. At each door the herald blew his trumpet, and made proclamation as follows:

"A goodly company is now approaching the doors of your domain."

The department chief, stepping forward, shook hands with the librarian, and said, "Right glad we are to have you enter the portals of our new home, and great pleasure it will give us to disclose to you the beauties and wonders thereof."

After inspecting the department the librarian took leave of the department head as follows: "We thank you well for the hearty welcome tendered us. Pray join us in our march as we journey, further wonders to discover."

The department head and her staff then joined the procession on its way to the next room.

The receptions in the different rooms varied, according to the taste and ability of those who had charge of them, from a simple recital of the foregoing ritual, with an inspection of the room, to an entertainment of some kind.

In the bindery, the staff found a completely equipped book-hospital, with the chief as head nurse, and her assistants as nurses, wearing appropriate costumes. Tables bore specimens of books in various stages of repair, with such notices as "Children's diseases a specialty," "Morgue," "After treatment," etc.

The open shelf room displayed a gentle reminder of the large fiction percentage.

In the general delivery room, the head of the department and assistants appeared at the delivery desk attired as waitresses at a lunch counter, and a clever skit was read by one of their number as follows:

Be seated, kind patrons; places for two?  
(They look like two hundred). This table  
will do.

The call-slips are napkins; the pencils,  
though lead,

Become by our magic, fine silver instead.  
Now refer to our menu, the card catalog,  
Which contains all our viands from nectar  
to grog,

For an entrée you'd like dear Margery  
Daw,

Or Arms and the Man, by G. Bernard Shaw.  
The crackers of course are the Human Ma-  
chine

And a Message to Garcia—they're both  
small and lean.

We serve as a relish Plain Tales from the  
Hills

To warm up your blood, and ward off the  
chills.

The olives are easily Hunting the Snark  
Unless you prefer to have When It Was  
Dark.

Then clear off the table for course number  
three;

We'll all be as lively as waiters can be.

Chorus (in which all joined)

For we're waiters at the Booky Inn

And P. L. is our sign;

We serve you meals with drink and cheer  
From nine a. m. till nine.

In the record department, the staff found Mrs Jarley's wax-works representing "Statistica," "Duplicata," "Giggelina," "Adresseemma," and finally "Nag," who bore a striking resemblance to the department head.

The procession moved then to the reference room, but instead of the expected reception here the staff found this room entirely empty except for the presence of a sable servitor bearing on a tray a small but suggestive lemon for the chairman of the staff committee, and a communication for the librarian, which designated certain important works of reference, represented by members of the staff, each one having a special note of characterization.

In the training class room the instructor received the company and pointed to the assembled class, remarking—

This is the band I'm teaching all  
From aeroplanes to Adam's fall—

The reason of the cosmos—

The thusness of the why,

The riddle of the universe,

Why men are born or die,

In anonyms and synonyms and isms all,  
they bask

Till they can answer anything that I may  
chance to ask.

To show you then how quick the mind,

I'll ask them now, Where they would find  
The answer to this question—  
Why did the hen cross the road?

In response to which the class chanted  
in unison:

Look well upon this haggard band,  
We are the slaves of Library hand,  
Abused are we by everyone,  
From early morn till day is done.

'Tis Mrs. Sawyer, look at her!  
Who changed us from what once we were.  
Erst we were merry, gay and free  
Until she got her hands on we.

From pillar unto post we go,  
Our speed is counted fast or slow.  
Instructed, patronized, advised,  
Revised, despised and supervised.

But just the same,  
In us you see  
The future of the Libreree.

In the cataloging room the staff witnessed a play entitled "The cataloger's dream," with a most unique cast of characters. The fitting costumes were most life-like, and when the inky brothers, the paste, the brush and all of the rest proceeded to lay the blame for all their misdeeds on the catalogers, there was a responsive thrill in the audience.

In the librarian's office the librarian read the following verses, and then distributed to those present copies of the program of the "Playlet," given by members of the staff immediately afterward in the staff assembly room—

Up in the top of the Library Ship  
The Pilot House shall be—  
Where the Pilot sits and gazes out  
O'er the brick and mortar sea.

Fraught with the thoughts of the great and good,  
The ship puts out from shore  
She is going to carry it all for food  
To readers many a score.

And as he harkens his window through  
To the Auto-Bird's wild note,  
And shrinks as the Corsair Motorman  
Darts past in his Trolley Boat

He wonders if he may steer his ship  
Where disaster may not befall  
Twixt Cathedral Rock, now hard a-port  
And the Starboard City Hall!

Out to the Library's Promised Land  
Where the tax yields 20 mills,  
And the hours are few and the pay is high,  
And 'tis only joy that kills.

Where the Public says "I thank you  
Ma'am"  
And bows as it takes its book,  
Where fines are paid with a smiling face  
Instead of a grewsome look.

Oh, when shall we reach that gladsome shore  
Where the Pilot has fixed his gaze?  
I can not tell, but I venture to say  
'Twill take some scores of days.

So the Pilot, who has to steer the ship  
Down the Educational Stream,  
Welcomes you all, ye stokers bold,  
Who furnish the library steam!

The title of the play was "Library efficiency," presented by the "Hammerthrowers' Union" of St. Louis.

The terminal station of this library pilgrimage was in the children's room. The lights were turned out, and the company was entertained with a Brownie dance, performed in costumes before a blazing wood-fire in the fireplace at one end of the room. Later refreshments were served, and the opening of the St. Louis public library for the staff, came to an end.

### College Librarians at A. L. A. Conference of 1912

The secretary of the A. L. A. recently sent a circular letter to the librarians of 135 of the leading college and university libraries in the United States and Canada respecting the A. L. A. conference of 1912. The letter stated that this conference would probably be held at Ottawa, Canada, and that the Executive board desired to arrange a date that would be convenient for the librarians and assistants of the college and university libraries. Information was requested on the following points:

1. Date college closes for summer of 1912.
2. State your preference for date of conference (six days).

3. Will librarian probably attend if date is convenient?

4. How many other members of staff will probably attend if date is convenient?

Librarians may be interested to see the result of this questionnaire.

Replies received (to December 30), 83.

Colleges closing not later than June 21, 73.

Prefer conference between June 21 and July 5, 41.

Prefer conference before June 20, nine.

Prefer conference later in July, six.

Prefer conference in August, five.

No preference for date of conference, 22.

Librarians who state intention to be present, 52.

Other members of staff probably present, from 71 to 89.

We regret that of the 135 librarians addressed only 62 per cent have found it convenient to reply, but from the returns received it is clear that the last of June or first of July are the most popular dates for the conference from the college librarian's point of view. Most of those who express no preference are those who do not expect to attend. From these returns it appears that the college libraries are going to be well represented at the next conference.

GEORGE B. UTLEY.

### Co-operative Information Bureau

An effort to create what is termed a Co-operative information bureau in Boston, has been sedulously pushed by G. W. Lee and others interested in the matter.

A meeting was held in Boston on January 10, when a formal organization took place, by the election of the following officers: President, Dr R. P. Bigelow, librarian, Massachusetts institute of technology; vice-president, Paul P. Foster, librarian, *Youth's Companion*; secretary-treasurer, G. W. Lee, librar-

ian, Stone & Webster; editor of *Bulletin*, Thomas J. Homer, Social law library.

In addition the constitution provides that the directorate shall be represented by 10 sponsors-in-chief for the 10 general divisions of the Dewey Decimal classification. Eight branches are covered thus far, viz.:

000 General works. H. G. Wadlin, librarian, Boston public library.

100 Philosophy. William C. Lane, librarian, Harvard university.

200 Religion. Mary M. Pillsbury, General theological library.

300 Sociology. Charles Belden, librarian, Massachusetts state library.

400 Philology. (Yet to be filled.)

500 Natural science. Guy E. Marion, librarian, Arthur D. Little, Inc.

600 Useful arts. Dr. R. P. Bigelow, librarian, Massachusetts institute of technology.

700 Fine arts. (Yet to be filled.)

800 Literature. C. K. Bolton, librarian, Boston athenaeum.

900 History. Worthington C. Ford, Massachusetts historical society.

It is stated that the bureau is an attempt to classify business experience of a community, through a clearing house which is to direct where this experience can be found. By experience is meant, not merely the indescribable knowledge that each man gets in his life's work, but also the professedly expert information that various specialists may have. In addition to experience, books, pamphlets, periodicals, etc., borrowable or obtainable upon terms that may be named, will also come in for registration at the headquarters. It is intended that the Dewey Decimal classification shall be used, and membership renewed in the bureau. There are three classes of membership—Class A, co-operators; class B, subscribers for the *Bulletin*; and class C, who both co-operate and subscribe.

The plan is to locate the location of material. For instance, a man may have been in the habit of resorting to the postoffice some blocks away, for the New York directory, but through a clearing house, learns that his neighbor in the next office has a copy of the New York telephone directory, which may

well suit his purpose. He finds that the cost of this is about 50c, and decides to own it himself.

The Boston public library is rich as a storehouse of literature, but is it not psychologically true, the richer the storehouse the less suggestive it tends to be for outside resources? A man with 100,000 books at hand is so accustomed to depend upon these, that it is hardly likely to occur to him that someone with a small office, in the business district may have a single publication that it would not be practicable for this large library to own. For instance, a small book on concrete, price \$20, which is not large in size, but apparently so in importance, that it would be well to know half a dozen places where it could be borrowed, on account of its prohibitive price.

The whole undertaking is in a state of development, and it will be interesting to learn how far the community will join to take advantage of the general invitation to co-operate. The headquarters for inquiries is the Boston office of Thomas Nelson & Sons.

### American Library Institute

#### Report of elections

A correspondence vote for officers and membership of the A. L. I. was taken in December, and the following persons were elected:

Fellows of the institute—Mrs Theresa H. Elmendorf, Buffalo, N. Y.; Frank P. Hill, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Harry L. Koopman, Providence, R. I.; Herbert Putnam, Washington, D. C.; Bernard C. Steiner, Baltimore, Md.; Alice S. Tyler, Des Moines, Ia.; and Beatrice Winsor, Newark, N. J. Henry M. Utley, librarian of Detroit, was elected to succeed himself as a member on the Institute board for a five-year term from January 1, 1912.

Dr Frank P. Hill of Brooklyn was elected president, and Mary Eileen Ahern, of Chicago, secretary.

HENRY J. CARR.

### Mid-Winter Meetings in Chicago\*

#### Meeting of the Executive Board

The Executive Board held a meeting at the Hotel Sherman January 4, and discussed various propositions. Among the actions taken was the passage of a suitable memorial in honor of the late Frederick Morgan Crunden, senior ex-president of the American library association. Dr C. W. Andrews was appointed special delegate to the opening of the new main building of the St. Louis public library, carrying the congratulations of the association on the achievement.

A cordial invitation was extended to members of the Library association (of the United Kingdom) to attend the next annual conference of the A. L. A. at Ottawa.

Treasurer Roden submitted his report for the period January-December, 1911. Receipts, \$9,500; expenditures, \$7,495. The estimated income for 1912, including sales of publications and incomes from various funds, was \$19,450. The salary of the secretary was increased from \$2,100 to \$2,400.

The budget adopted provided for an expenditure of \$9,000 to meet the expenses of 1912.

The committee on nomination of officers for 1912 was appointed as follows: Chalmers Hadley, chairman; C. H. Gould, Edith Tobitt, G. T. Little, Jessie Wells.

From the most reliable and authoritative information available, placed before the committee, it appeared most probable that the Chateau Laurier at Ottawa would be completed in time to accommodate the 1912 conference in that city. In accordance with the present plans, the 1912 conference will begin either June 26 or 27.

The president was authorized to appoint a committee to draft a by-law stating definitely what person or persons are entitled to cast the vote in behalf of institutional membership. The commit-

\*Abstracts from reports of the various secretaries.



tee consists of Henry E. Legler, Purd B. Wright and Linda A. Eastman.

A petition having been received from the committee on library training for an appropriation of \$500 for the year 1912 for the purpose of inspecting library schools, it was voted that \$200 for this stated purpose be appropriated to the use of the committee on library training, from the amount set apart for the use of the committees, and that appropriations of other committees be apportionately reduced.

#### **Meeting of the A. L. A. Publishing Board**

The A. L. A. Publishing Board held a meeting in Chicago on January 4, to discuss financial and other business of the board.

The estimated expense for 1912 was \$17,225, the estimated income \$15,811, leaving a probable deficit of \$1,413, caused by the heavy expense in printing the revised edition of Subject-headings and the forthcoming A. L. A. catalog so close together. The treasurer's report showed receipts of \$14,862, and an expenditure of \$14,300. Various subjects comprising different phases of the activities of the publishing board were discussed, and a review of the proposed publications, as well as of those on hand, was presented.

#### **A. L. A. council**

Two sessions of council were held during the recent mid-winter meeting, the first on Thursday afternoon and the second on Friday morning, January 4 and 5. There were 30 members present.

The first subject discussed at the opening session was the advisability of the A. L. A. taking membership as an organization, in various national organizations, with a view to greater mutual service through membership. The suggestion came from the president, Mrs H. L. Elmendorf. A list of 20 national bodies was suggested. After considerable discussion it was voted that the president be authorized to ascertain the possibilities and advisability of such action.

George F. Bowerman, as chairman of a committee, presented a letter from the District of Columbia library association, calling attention to the advantage of Washington as a library meeting place, and suggesting that the A. L. A. adopt a policy that would include recurrent meetings at stated periods, being held in Washington. The idea led to considerable discussion, but action was deferred.

The next proposal was presented through motion by Mr Hill, that it be considered desirable for the mid-winter council meeting to be held one year in Chicago and the next year in Atlantic City, or some place further east.

In the attendant discussion Dr Andrews called attention to the fact that it was important that the executive board and the publishing board meet at the beginning of the fiscal year, preferably at headquarters, for action on financial reports for the coming year. The motion was not carried.

The Committee on federal and state relations recommended that the movement looking toward the establishment of a parcels post be supported by the A. L. A. The president appointed a committee to draft a resolution to be referred to the committee on federal and state relations. A committee from council was appointed by the president on the motion to consider the question of government of American libraries and their relation to municipal authorities, and report to council. The president appointed Dr Arthur E. Bostwick chairman of the committee with power to complete his committee.

On motion, a committee was appointed to consider library architecture and the appointment of a properly constituted committee to approve library plans, to report to the council at its next meeting. The president appointed on this committee, Cornelia Marvin, W. H. Brett and H. C. Wellman.

The first subject for discussion at the second session was "Educational unity in cities." Walter L. Brown, librarian of Buffalo, N. Y., prepared a paper on the subject, which in his absence was

read by the secretary. Considerable discussion followed the reading of this paper, and the secretary was requested to give it as much desirable publicity as possible.

The greater part of the morning was taken up in the discussion of the report of the committee on the relations of the A. L. A. with state library associations. The letter of the committee sent to the state association during the past year for action covered the question of affiliation by a series of questions.

The specific questions were:

How may a state library association be formally or officially connected with the A. L. A. on a basis which will be advantageous to both organizations?

1. By the payment of a per capita assessment into the treasury of the A. L. A. on a basis of probably 10c per capita?

2. Should this entitle the state association to name a representative from the state as a member of the A. L. A. council?

3. Should there not be a minimum requirement as to the number of members in a state association before it would be eligible for connection with the A. L. A. upon the basis suggested? (i. e. a state association should have at least 25 members before it would be eligible for state representation in the council.)

4. In the larger state associations might it not be advisable to allow more than one representative on the council, e. g., one representative for every 100 state members, or fraction thereof?

5. Should the individual members of the state association be considered associate members of the A. L. A. under this arrangement (without receiving the publications of the A. L. A., the cost of which is considerable)?

6. Should those already members of state associations who desire to join the A. L. A. individually be given some concession, such as the waiving of the initiation fee in the A. L. A.?

7. Is there a probability of strengthening the state library association by this

official recognition and by the reports that would come back to the state meetings from the state representatives to the council?

The report stated:

The committee feels that the preliminary investigations have been sufficiently thorough to assure them of a general desire that there shall be such changes made in the constitution of the A. L. A. as will make possible a formal federation of the state associations with the A. L. A.

The committee requests that the secretary of the A. L. A. obtain from each state and provincial association a list of its members, or in some way, ascertain how many A. L. A. members are now members of each of these associations. Until this data is available no conclusions can be safely drawn as to the effect such affiliation might have on the A. L. A. membership.

The following recommendations are made to the council for consideration regarding certain amendments to the constitution:

1. That provision be made for state and provincial membership in the council by amending Section 14 of the constitution, substituting for the clause "twenty-five elected by the council itself" the following, "one member from each state and provincial library association which complies with the conditions for state and provincial representation set forth in the by-laws."

2. That Section 3 of the by-laws be amended by striking out the entire section and substituting the following therefor: "Each state and provincial library association having a membership of not less than . . . members, may be represented in the council by the president of such association, or by an alternate elected at the annual meeting of the association. The annual dues shall be \$5 for each association having a membership of 50 or less and 10c per capita additional where membership is above the number."

All members of the associations so affiliating shall be considered associate

members of the A. L. A. without receiving publications, and should such members desire to become individual members of the A. L. A. the payment of an initiation fee will be waived.

The report of the committee was signed by Alice S. Tyler, chairman, and Samuel H. Ranck. The third member of the committee, Frank P. Hill, dissented from the recommendation, but agreed with the report which precedes the recommendations.

A very animated discussion followed the presentation of the report of the committee on the question of eliminating that part of the constitution which provides for, "twenty-five members of council elected by council itself," which did not fall short of the same vigorous discussion that arose at Bretton Woods, Mackinac, and later at the "sunset" meeting at Pasadena. Those in favor of the council itself, holding the balance of power as to its membership, were quite as determined in their approval of the provision as ever, and those who were in favor of giving a larger representation to the association itself, contended as strongly as ever for their democratic ideas.

Another point raised was the question as to whether a fee of 10c per capita or a uniform fee of \$5 for all state associations be paid, regardless of the size and membership, or are there elements other than the lack of membership, which affiliation might assist in overcoming?

Would the lack of continuity of service by council members who are elected by affiliating associations tend to disarrange the policies of the Council, or would a larger number of new members coming, and old members leaving help to spread more readily the work of the A. L. A.?

Where there is more than one state organization in a state, should each organization be entitled to elect a member, or should the state as a whole be entitled to only one representative?

After considerable discussion it was voted that the report be received, and re-

ferred back to the committee, and that portion of the report adopted which requests the secretary to obtain from the associations a report of membership, to ascertain how many are members of the A. L. A. The matter will come up for action again at the A. L. A. meeting next summer.

The committee on international printed cards reported through its chairman, W. C. Lane. The plans for printing cards at the Royal library at Berlin, and at a few other places were presented. It was suggested that American libraries might place orders for the German cards with the headquarters office of the A. L. A., and that the cards, when received, be distributed from headquarters.

The report of the committee on public documents which contained the suggestion that there be published a bibliography or check-list of Canadian documents, was referred to the Publishing Board.

S. H. Ranck, chairman of the committee to secure information relative to a scientific and satisfactory standard for lighting and ventilation of library buildings, made a report of progress. The work of the committee has been chiefly investigation so far. It is the purpose of the committee to have made a number of scientific tests and experiments which shall develop information required to complete the report.

The question as to just what is meant by the term "circulation of books," as used by libraries came up for discussion. The matter was referred to the committee on library administration.

After a vote of thanks for the hospitality extended during the meeting, the council adjourned.

#### League of library commissions

The Middle-west section of the League of library commissions held a meeting in Chicago at the Public library, January 2-4. Representatives were in attendance from Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oregon and Wisconsin. The president of

the league, Miss Marvin of Oregon, acted as chairman. The sessions were all given over to informal discussion of the topics outlined on the program.

On Tuesday morning the question of state school library systems was considered and Miss Marvin turned the meeting over to Miss Wilson, librarian of the state department of education of Minnesota. Desirable points of a school library law, and the Connection between school libraries and the state library commissions were the chief topics of discussion. Later Miss Wilson was requested for a statement of the desirable points of such a law to present at the annual meeting of the League.

On Tuesday afternoon Miss Wales of Missouri took charge of the discussion of the library budget for the small public library and presented the results of a questionnaire sent out to all library commissions. The possibility of standardizing the budget and simplification in methods of organizing such libraries were considered.

Mr. Milam of Indiana presided at the session of Wednesday morning. The best methods of getting the work of the commission before the people, uniform financial accounts and supplementing the fixed group traveling library from the open shelves were some of the questions discussed.

The first topic discussed on Thursday morning was the publication of an annual report of the League in order that the library commissions might have data to use with legislative committees.

Miss Marvin presented the matter of a library post and read a letter from an Oregon senator inquiring as to just what the librarian wanted in the way of a library post rate. On motion of Mrs. Earl, the president of the League was requested to prepare a statement for the postal committee of congress setting forth the wishes of the library commissions for a library parcels post.

In view of the general movement toward home government, it was suggested that library commissions look

after the public library provisions in city charters and it was further suggested that the league print a statement containing desirable provisions for library control to be used by charter committees.

It was voted that an effort be made to secure co-operation between the Carnegie Corporation and the A. L. A. in the interests of progress in library architecture.

Miss Brown of Iowa presented the report of the league committee on study outlines for traveling library use, recommending an outline based on a single text with a small group of books for collateral references.

The meeting then adjourned.

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON.

#### College and university librarians of the middle-west

The third annual meeting of the college and university librarians of the Middle-West was held in the Chicago public library, Friday afternoon and Saturday forenoon, January 5 and 6, 1912. The attendance, 60 at the first session and 40 at the second, was larger than heretofore, partly because more institutions were represented and partly because of the presence of a larger number of other librarians who were in Chicago to attend the meetings of the week. Nineteen college and university libraries of this section of the country were represented by from one to six members of their respective staffs; and representatives from eastern libraries, Harvard, Columbia, Simmons and Syracuse, from one southern library, the University of Georgia, from one Canadian library, McGill university and from the John Crerar library and the Library of Congress were all welcome visitors and participants in the discussions.

At the first session Dr Walter Lichtenstein, who has recently returned from a six months' expedition to European book centers in the interest of several American libraries, told his plan of work and some of his experiences in filling

book orders entrusted to him. Mr Lane, Mr Andrews and Mr Hanson gave very favorable reports concerning his work for Harvard, Chicago and the John Crerar libraries. Newman Miller of the University of Chicago Press, presented a statement concerning the work of the "co-operative forwarding agent from European book centers." Weekly shipment of books has proven a very satisfactory, though a somewhat expensive arrangement, and the suggestion was made that perhaps a bi-weekly shipment would reduce the cost and provide sufficiently frequent shipments to satisfy most needs.

Professor A. S. Root presented a statement of "some perplexities in the use of printed catalog cards," in which he called attention to some shortcomings of this service which everyone recognizes and which can hardly be remedied, and to other shortcomings or inconsistencies which might, perhaps, be eliminated. Mr Andrews of the A. L. A. Publishing Board, Mr Putnam of the Library of Congress, Mr Hanson of the University of Chicago and others participated in the very active discussion which followed. H. O. Severance gave a description of a charging system which has recently been inaugurated at the University of Missouri library.

At the second session P. L. Windsor, University of Illinois, presented statistics tending to show the extent of the dependence of western libraries on the large eastern libraries in the matter of "Inter-library loans." The bulk of loans to institutions of the Middle-West appeared to come from Harvard, Library of Congress, John Crerar library, and the University of Chicago library. Greater publicity in regard to the contents of our own libraries would probably decrease the number of requests sent to eastern libraries. Mr Lane presented the proposition to make a charge for such loans, not for the use of the book but to pay for a part of the service involved in making the loan. Jacob Hodnefield presented a full account of

his work with "exchange and gifts," in the University of Illinois library. J. T. Gerould opened the discussion of "pensions for college librarians," and emphasized the desirability of an academic rank being accorded the principal members of the staffs. At the close of the general discussion of this question, a motion was passed that the committee in charge of the meeting be directed to take what action seemed possible, in order to lead to a more general granting of this academic rank.

The committee for making arrangements for the next annual meeting consists of J. C. M. Hanson, Dr A. S. Root and J. T. Gerould.

#### Conference of library school faculties

This was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Wednesday, January 3, 1912.

The meeting was called to order by Mr Windsor. Twelve library schools were represented by 27 persons present. A report was read on the use of lantern slides by library schools. This report was based on information obtained by Miss Whittlesey from letters sent out by her to library schools, libraries, and library commissions. A brief discussion followed in which the opinions expressed showed the value and use of such slides, and that it was a matter which should be developed further.

The subject of uniformity in the teaching of simplified catalog rules was presented by Miss Rathbone, who said that uniformity in teaching forms of cards in simplified cataloging would aid in producing general uniformity in cataloging. Miss Rathbone suggested that if a set of rules should be formulated and printed they would no doubt be followed sufficiently by schools to result in fewer variations in forms taught than are now found. Each school has practices which it does not consider of vital importance. Others could be substituted to gain the advantage of sending out from all schools, catalogers with uniformity in details of simplified cataloging which would tend to produce like



methods in libraries. It is not intended to alter the A. L. A. rules, but to show how cards are to be made when brevity and simplicity are desired. The points are those of detail and of lesser importance, but those concerning which uniformity in a catalog is desired. The usages of the various library schools in the teaching of cataloging were then brought out. Wisconsin does not use the A. L. A. rules, but has its rules printed on galleys, and distributed to each student; Illinois uses full A. L. A. rules and directs attention to desirable simplifications; New York has not yet found any definite simplified rules which it feels are infallible. A motion was passed that a committee be appointed to confer with Miss Hitchler regarding her forthcoming book on cataloging.

The chair appointed Miss Turvill, chairman of such committee, and Misses Gooch and Van Valkenberg as members. Mr Walter suggested that such rules be sent to the N. E. A. as an exhibit.

Miss Hazeltine presented for discussion the subject of "Efficiency of administration in library schools," bringing out in detail the conditions in the schools regarding registration, number of instructors and lectures, amount of revising of student work by instructors, amount of time allowed instructors for study and preparation of lectures, number of class appointments per instructor, per week, length of instructors' vacation, etc.

The next subject of discussion was the cost of library schools, presented by Mr Windsor, who had obtained data on this question from the various schools. It was evident that not only is there no uniform system of accounting in the various institutions, but not even a general statement of the real cost of the schools can always be made. In many cases the business accounts of the library school are so involved with other departments of the institution, as to make it quite impossible to learn the real cost. From rough estimates it seems, however, that the annual cost per library

school student varies in these institutions from about \$165 to \$450. The amount of floor space given over chiefly to school use varies from less than 1,000 to 10,000 square feet. The general discussion brought out many interesting differences and similarities in the business practices.

There followed some discussion as to the conferences of library instructors, when and where such conferences should be held, etc. There were various suggestions made, that these conferences should meet alternately at Chicago during the mid-winter, and at Atlantic City during the tri-state meeting, at the various library schools, at the New York state meeting, etc., but it was finally decided that the arrangements as to future meetings be left to a committee to be appointed by the Chair. The Chair then appointed Miss Plummer, chairman, and Misses Hazeltine and Donnelly.

BESSIE SARGEANT SMITH, Secretary.

#### General notes

The statistics of attendance show 121 persons at the mid-winter meeting. These represented 19 states, District of Columbia and two provinces in Canada.

The usual courtesies from the Chicago library club and the libraries of Chicago were extended.

The weather was very cold, but the meeting places were comfortably heated.

W. H. Kerr, a new-comer at the mid-winter meeting was much enjoyed as the personal exponent of his article on "Psychology for librarians" which appeared in PUBLIC LIBRARIES for December.

Much favorable comment was made on the generosity and hospitality of the Chicago public library in providing for the comfort and convenience of the member. The active interest of a librarian who is also a school man may help to clarify our vision as to library and school methods from both sides.

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—On the evening of January 4 the Chicago library club held its annual reception in honor of the visiting librarians in Chicago for "library week."

On this occasion the club again enjoyed the pleasant surroundings of the Art institute, through the courtesy of its management. About 200 were present, among the number many well known in library circles, and the members of the club enjoyed the opportunity of meeting them in a social way. The fine collection of portraits now on exhibition was opened for the guests; there was dancing for those who wished it; and the music, the paintings and the sociability of the occasion were enjoyed by all.

HARRIE EDNA BROOKE, Secretary.

**District of Columbia**—At the regular annual meeting of the District of Columbia library association, held at the Public library, Wednesday evening, December 13, the following officers for 1911-'12 were elected: President, Paul Brockett, Smithsonian Institution; first vice-president, Ernest Bruncken; Copyright division, Library of Congress; second vice-president, Claribel R. Barnett, librarian, Department of Agriculture; secretary, C. Seymour Thompson, Public library; treasurer, Miss E. A. Spilman, Department of Justice; executive committee, Edward D. Greenman, Bureau of Education; Miss R. M. McDONALD, Bureau of Fisheries; Miss M. A. Matthews, Bureau of Labor.

At the close of the business session William Warner Bishop, the retiring president, read a most interesting paper on "Two unsolved problems of library work; locating a known book; locating an unknown book." The location of a book whose author and title are known and which is in the library ceases to be more than a matter of ordinary routine unless, through some of the intricacies or deficiencies of the library machinery, search does not immediately reveal its location. After briefly recounting some of the difficulties which sometimes arise

to baffle the librarian in his search the speaker passed to the problem of locating a book whose author and title are known, which is not in the library where it is sought. "If the book is not here, where is it?" The infrequency with which we can answer this question is "a challenge to our inventiveness, our power of co-operation, our collective responsibility," but the basis for a solution of the problem has been made in the printed catalog cards of various libraries, and the Library of Congress cards (now about 500,000 in number) form a nucleus for a union author list of works in the large libraries and the special collections of this country. The proposition for such a union catalog, Mr Bishop considers by no means "a mere dream, an ideal never to be realized." It is expected that within a decade every book in all the libraries of the District of Columbia will be represented in the Library of Congress catalog, except the Surgeon General's library and the Documents Office library. For both of these adequate catalogs now exist in book form. The progress toward a complete union list has been carried still further by the cards printed by the John Crerar, Chicago University, New York Public, Boston Public, and Harvard University libraries, and the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh. The union catalog resulting from these combined efforts already contains about 650,000 cards.

Mr Bishop then took up the problem of locating books which are not known by author and title—a problem opening up the field of subject cataloging and bibliographies. The need for definiteness of subject-headings has been well met by the new A. L. A. list of Subject-headings, and the publication by the Library of Congress of its list of headings, but the difficulties of subject cataloging are so many that the future does not seem as certain as the prospect of ultimately having a complete union author catalog. The best solution of the problem would probably be in an extension

of the work already well begun. If a union catalog of subjects, as well as of authors, were to be found in the Library of Congress, inter-library loans would be greatly increased, and the cause of scholarship and learning would be greatly advanced. Notwithstanding the obvious difficulties opposing such a plan, the speaker did not consider its ultimate accomplishment as unreasonable.

**District of Columbia**—The regular monthly meeting of the association was held at the Public library, Wednesday evening, January 10. After a short business session Dr Marcus Benjamin, of the National museum, gave an interesting talk on the bookplates of the departments of the national government. He described the various plates of the Library of Congress from those in use early in the nineteenth century to those of the present time, the plates belonging to the various departmental libraries, giving interesting descriptions of the designs, pointing out some which are exceedingly elaborate and others which are very simple yet appropriate in design. Special interest was attached to the talk by an opportunity to examine the bookplates in Dr Benjamin's carefully formed collection. Following Dr Benjamin's address, Mr Brockett, president of the association, gave an account of the various processes of making engraved plates.

**Pennsylvania**—The regular meeting of the Pennsylvania library club was held at the H. Josephine Widener branch of Free library of Philadelphia on Monday evening, January 8, 1912. Owing to the fact that it was a very sleety night there were only 38 members present, but those who had braved the storm unanimously agreed that they were more than repaid for so doing.

Dr Nolan, the president, upon motion, dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, and after the election of three new members, introduced Dr C. G. Child, of the department of English of the University of Pennsylvania, who presented the subject

of "The English dictionary," in one of the most interesting talks the club has had the pleasure of listening to in years.

Dr Child took the dictionary from the time of the earliest compilation of lists of words down through the many glossaries of hard and easy words, to our present-day dictionaries, explaining in a very comprehensive and concise way how the material is collected and filed, the enormous cost, etc. Dr Child says that Murray's dictionary when complete, will be the standard authority.

The reception afterwards, which was very informal, in spite of the weather held until a late hour.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN, Secretary.

**South Dakota**—The fifth annual meeting of the South Dakota library association was held in Pierre, November 28-29, in connection with the State educational association. The program of the opening session, held in the Governor's rooms in the new capitol, was prepared by the Woman's club of Pierre. The papers and addresses were explanatory and descriptive of the new capitol and its decorations, and the meeting was a most interesting and instructive proceeding.

The afternoon meeting was called to order by President W. H. Powers of the State college. There were 10 librarians of the state present, with Miss L. E. Stearns of the Wisconsin library commission as guest. After the preliminary business, Mrs A. Hardy of the South Dakota state library read an interesting and comprehensive paper on South Dakota books, of which there is a surprisingly large number for so young a state. This was followed by an address by Miss Stearns on "The library militant." At the close of the afternoon session an automobile ride was given the librarians by the Pierre woman's club, after which an informal reception was tendered at one of the beautiful homes.

The evening meeting was a joint session with the Educational association, and was addressed by J. Adams Puffer, Boston, Mass., and by Miss Stearns,

whose topic was "The rural community, the school and the library." The crowded house felt that nothing so good as Mr Puffer's address could come from the lips of a woman. Miss Stearns' fun stayed the wavering and they remained captivated to the end of the long and serious discussion.

At the Wednesday morning session the A. L. A. letter regarding the affiliation of state and national library organizations was discussed. Agreement was given to propositions one, two, five and seven, but numbers three, four and six were opposed.

Work with the foreigner was presented by Katherine D. Steel, of the Hearst library at Lead, who because of the miners there, has a large foreign population to deal with. Miss Stearns spoke entertainingly of the magazine selection, recommending at least 20 magazines for the small library, as she stated the mission of the magazine is to inform, to inspire or to refresh. Many short papers of a practical nature, on many phases of library routine were read and discussed, the aim being to follow the progress of the book from the publisher to borrower.

The meeting in the afternoon was held in the rooms of the State historical association. The first business was the election of the officers, which resulted as follows: President, Edla M. Lawson, Carnegie library, Mitchell; vice-president, Nettie D. Current, Carnegie library, Sioux Falls; secretary and treasurer, Mrs Maud Russell Carter, Carnegie library, Pierre.

Resolutions highly commending the work of W. H. Powers, who had been president of the State library association for five years, were passed enthusiastically.

Resolutions relating to undesirable periodical publications in libraries were adopted. Miss Stearns recommended the binding of the advertising pages in one magazine of each volume as a record of the inventors of the age.

A paper on "Flags and conservation of the beautiful for children," was pre-

sented by Mrs J. S. Sebres of Pierre.

An invitation from Mitchell for the next annual meeting was accepted. A vote of thanks was tendered Miss Stearns for her presence and valuable suggestions. Mr Powers in his valedictory address recommended strongly a librarian's reading circle, and that the books to be circulated freely, accompanied by a monthly letter. His suggestion was approved.

MAUDE RUSSELL CARTER, Secretary.

### Coming Meetings

#### Wisconsin

The 21st annual meeting of the Wisconsin library association will be held at Janesville, February 21-23.

#### Atlantic City meeting

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania library club and the New Jersey library association will be held at Atlantic City, March 8-9, 1912.

There will be three business sessions at the Hotel Chelsea, as follows:

Friday, March 8, 8:30 p. m., under the direction of the Pennsylvania library club.

Saturday, March 9, 10:30 a. m., under the direction of the New Jersey library association.

Saturday, March 9, 8:30 p. m., a general session.

#### Railroad rates

The usual excursion rates from New York and Philadelphia.

For railroad tickets and schedules apply to any ticket agent of the Pennsylvania or Reading railroads or the Central railroad of New Jersey.

The headquarters will be the Hotel Chelsea at the ocean end of South Morris avenue, Chelsea, Atlantic City.

Members and their friends who wish rooms reserved are requested to write direct to the hotel.

Members of other library clubs and friends in adjacent states are cordially invited to be present and to take part in the meeting.

## Outline of proposed program

First session—President of the Pennsylvania library club, Dr Edward J. Nolan, librarian and secretary of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, chairman.

Address of welcome, Hon Harry Bacharach, mayor of Atlantic City.

The reconciliation between the ideal and the real in literature, Ernest Lacy, Litt. D., head of the department and professor of the English language and literature, Central High School, Philadelphia.

Incidents and anecdotes in the life of a book auctioneer, Stan. V. Henkels.

Second and third sessions announced later. A tea will be held on Saturday afternoon under the auspices of both clubs, and it is hoped all the members and friends will avail themselves of this opportunity to renew old and make new acquaintances in the library world.

JEAN E. GRAFFEN,  
Secretary Pennsylvania Library Club.

## League of library commissions

The Eastern section of the League of library commissions will hold its usual winter meeting at Atlantic City March 7-8. The meeting will be at the Hotel Chelsea and the rates will be the same as those given to those attending the bi-state meeting. The program will be of particular interest to those engaged in extension work.

## Library Schools

## Drexel institute

The Executive committee of the Drexel Institute library school association wishes to announce that in December, 1911, the Alice Bertha Kroeger memorial fund reached \$1,000. The money has been invested in bonds bearing five per cent interest. This places \$50 annually in the hands of the Director of the school to be used in securing lectures from men and women of experience in the library world.

The fund is a growing one. Gifts and pledges of future contributions may be sent to the treasurer of the association, Florence Wood, Library,

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

CASSANDRA UPDEGRAFF WARNER,  
President, D. I. L. S. A.

## University of Illinois

Every member of the faculty attended the meetings of at least one day during the mid-winter "library week" in Chicago, now become so fixed in the western librarian's calendar. Among those attending the various sessions were 19 former students of the school.

The following lecturers have appeared before the school recently: George B. Utley, secretary of the A. L. A., who spoke December 13, on "The work of the A. L. A.," and December 14 on "The librarian as an educational factor in the community;" Carl H. Milam, secretary of the Indiana library commission, who spoke December 18 on "Rural library extension" and on December 19 on "Some problems of the small library;" and Dr Walter K. Jewett, librarian of the University of Nebraska library, who gave an account of certain phases of work in the University of Nebraska library.

The six departmental libraries established this year in the new Lincoln hall for graduate and advanced students in the humanities, have added materially to the opportunity for practice work by library school students. Each library contains from 5,000 to 11,000 v.; is in charge of a trained assistant, and is unusually attractive as a place for serious study.

A regular meeting of the Library club was held December 13 at the home of Professor and Mrs F. K. W. Drury. Dr Solon J. Buck, of the department of history, gave a most instructive and entertaining recital of his experiences in discovering, using and caring for local history material in Illinois.

The students and faculty were entertained October 29 by Director and Mrs Windsor. The Woman's league of the university gave a reception in the woman's building on January 13 in honor of the women of the Library school.



## Alumni notes

Gertrude Jamison, B. L. S., 1911, was married on December 23, 1911, to Harrison F. Gonnerman and will reside in Champaign.

Etna Phillips, 1909-10, has resigned her position as librarian of the Southern Illinois state normal school, Carbondale.

Marie Hammond, 1909-10, has resigned her position as assistant in Miami university library to become an assistant in Newberry library, Chicago.

## New York public library

The new circular of the school was published in December, the printing being done by the printing department of the library. A partial list of the year's lectures was included. A report on the organization and opening will be included in the director's annual report of the library which goes to press in January, and in all probability the school itself will print an annual report at the end of its administrative year, July 1.

The second term began January 2. Nearly all students had passed satisfactorily the term examinations, so that there were few conditions left to be carried as a handicap.

The lectures for January, as announced, are as follows:

January 5 and 12, Mr Frank Weitenkampf of the library, on "Prints" and on "Illustrations." A number of slides illustrating these lectures were kindly given to the school by the library's photographer, and it is hoped another year to add to these, so as to have a really representative set of illustrations.

January 15, Miss L. E. Stearns of the Wisconsin library commission, on "Some western phases of library work," and on "The library militant." Miss Stearns met the students at a class-room reception after the second lecture.

January 19, 22, 24 and 25, Miss Marvin of the Oregon library commission, on "Library legislation," "Commission work" (two lectures), "Library conditions on the Pacific coast," and "The small library building."

January 26, Dr Samuel McChord Crothers, on "Charles Dickens." A reception will follow the lecture, at which Dr Crothers and Miss Marvin will be the guests of honor.

January 29, E. H. Anderson on "The large library building."

The Anderson Auction Company kindly supplied tickets to their gallery for the entire school, on the occasion of the sale of the Robert Hoe books.

Miss Murray of the library staff conducted the students to the Tapley bindery on January 12, to see the processes of commercial binding, and on the following Friday gave a lesson on repairing books. Visits to the library's bindery and printery will come later.

Responses to the school's request for blanks and forms from libraries and library commissions have been prompt and favorable, and before very long we hope the collection may be mounted and arranged in such a way as to be easily referred to. Although these are being individually acknowledged as they are received, the school wishes in addition to express its appreciation of the very generous spirit shown.

The entrance examinations of the school for 1912-13 will be given June 11, 1912.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Principal.

## New York State library

As the date on which the new State Education building will be completed is too uncertain to permit any positive detailed plans for the coming summer, the summer session which the school had hoped to hold in June and July, 1912, must be postponed another year. The uncertainty will not affect the work of the regular school whose temporary quarters are quite adequate for present needs.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the school was informally celebrated on the afternoon of January 5. Mr Wyer addressed the students, briefly sketching the history of the school and mentioning the part played in the school's history by several prominent former facul-

ty members. By a fortunate coincidence, a lecture on "Library training" was delivered the same afternoon by June Richardson Donnelly, director of the Drexel Institute library school and an alumna of the New York State library school.

F. K. WALTER.

#### Simmons college

During the second term of 1911-'12 there will be a repetition of the courses given last year in Documents and Work with children.

The course in Documents is under the direction of Isadore D. Mudge, reference librarian of Columbia university. There will be lectures five days a week for five weeks beginning February 5. The class is open to men as well as women, and the fee for those taking this course only, is \$15.

The course, Work with children is under the direction of Alice Jordan, of the Public library, Boston, with two lecture periods a week from February to June. A new course is offered as an elective in connection with the classes given at the Museum of Fine Arts, a course in History of art under the direction of Dr Green.

Florence Finley, '06, has been made librarian of the Engineering department, Massachusetts institute of technology.

Edna F. Winn, '06, has resigned her position as librarian of the Engineering department, Massachusetts institute of technology to become librarian in the office of D. C. & W. B. Jackson, engineers, Boston.

Julia L. Crocker, ex '09, has been appointed librarian of the Thayer library, South Braintree.

Minnie E. Burke, '11, has been appointed general assistant in the library of the Massachusetts institute of technology.

Mary E. Dunbar, '11, is in the library of Mt. Holyoke college, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Marguerite F. Hawley, '11, has become an assistant in the library of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dorothy F. Hopkins, '11, filled an

appointment during July and August as story-teller in the Boston museum of fine arts to groups of children from the settlements. Since Sept. 1, she has been an assistant in the Library club of the North Bennett Industrial school, Boston.

Charlotte G. Noyes, '11, has become indexer in the Chemical department of the Pacific Mills, Lawrence.

Dorothy G. Nunn, '11, has been appointed assistant in the Public library of Wellesley.

Elizabeth G. Putnam, '11, has become assistant in the Public library of Waltham.

Marjorie S. Sutcliffe, '11, has been appointed assistant in the library of Wellesley college.

Olive Burroughs, ex 1912 has been made reference librarian of the Public library of Berkeley, California.

MARY E. ROBBINS.

#### Western Reserve university

The class have returned from their Christmas vacation much refreshed and ready for the winter's work. On January 10, Miss Stearns of the Wisconsin library commission lectured at the school on the "Library militant" arousing much enthusiasm. Afterwards over a social cup of tea the students and friends of the school had the pleasure of meeting Miss Stearns in an informal way. At the mid-winter meeting in Chicago the first week of January the school was represented by Miss Eastman and the acting director.

#### Alumni notes

Louse Sadlier, '07, has resigned her position as assistant in the Adelbert college library of Western Reserve university, to become an assistant in the circulating department of the Cleveland public library.

Ruth Ellis, '10, has resigned her position as assistant in the Woodland branch of the Cleveland public library to accept the position of assistant librarian in Hamilton college at Clinton, N. Y.

Claire Darby, '11, has resigned her position as assistant in the Grand Rapids public library to become librarian for Ernst & Ernst, expert accountants in Cleveland.

BESSIE SARGEANT SMITH,  
Acting-Director.

### News from the Field

#### East

Georgina Carr, for several years past connected with the Public library in Troy, N. Y., and formerly with the library of Union college, Schenectady, N. Y., has recently become an assistant in the library of the International Y. M. C. A. training school at Springfield, Mass.

The new library building of the City library association of Springfield, Mass., was dedicated January 10, with appropriate ceremonies.

Lizzie A. Williams, for 21 years librarian of the Public library of Malden, Mass., has resigned her position. Miss Williams has seen the library grow under her management to three times its size both in books and circulation and feels the increased strain and added responsibility is a greater burden than she cares to carry longer.

Delucena L. Bingham, librarian of the Public library of Manchester, Mass., died January 16. He was a native of Manchester and when the citizens established a library there 80 years ago, Mr Bingham, then 17 years of age, was chosen librarian and has held the post ever since. He was the oldest librarian in the country.

#### Central Atlantic

Sarah H. Ames, N. Y., '94-'95, has returned to Westfield, N. Y., as librarian of the Patterson library.

Jessie R. Avery, N. Y., 1900-'01, has resigned her position as librarian of the Patterson library, Westfield, N. Y., to accept a position in the Theological Seminary library at Rochester, N. Y.

Martha Alice Burnet, assistant librar-

ian of the Public library of Madison, N. J., since its inception, resigned her position on November 10 to become the librarian of the Public library at Dover, N. J.

The twenty-third annual report of the Public library of Passaic, N. J., records a circulation of 202,406 v., among a population of 54,773, under an appropriation of \$10,749.

A branch library was opened in the high school during the past year. The Board of Education furnished the quarters, the library stocking and caring for it.

The well-known educational worker, Sherman Williams, has been appointed chief of the Division of school libraries of the New York state educational department. Mr Williams was for four years superintendent of schools at Glen Falls, N. Y., and has been for a long time a member of the board of trustees of the Public library in the same city. In 1900 and 1901 he was president of the Library section of the N. E. A. and was a pioneer in urging the intelligent use of class-room libraries.

#### Central

Under the will of Floris A. Sackett the Public library of Cincinnati has been left a fund of \$20,000, which through an interest in the residuary estate, may amount to \$50,000, the income to be used in the purchase of books.

The report of Librarian C. E. McLenegan of the Milwaukee public library reports a circulation for last year of 1,048,432v. Of this 41.4 per cent was fiction; 376,000v. were drawn through the main library. The rest were drawn through schools and branch libraries. Additions reach 16,393; number of volumes on the shelves, 232,000. One branch library has been added during the year.

The reference department of the Milwaukee public library is in charge of Sylvester J. Carter. Dr Oscar Burckhardt has special charge of the collections in foreign languages in the de-

partment. Mr McLenegan, librarian of the Milwaukee public library, in referring to Mr Carter, says that he has but recently come to the Milwaukee public library, but that already they are highly pleased with his work.

The new public library building was dedicated at Spencer, Ind., January 6. The site was donated by subscription. The building is the result of a gift of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie, and has capacity for about 6,000 volumes. It represents exceedingly good worth in construction for the money it cost. The exterior is extremely pleasing, made of Bedford stone and Adams brick, with a green tile roof. The Woman's club of Spencer presented a reproduction of Chapu's statue of Joan of Arc, and the D. A. R. gave a large frieze of the Landing of the Pilgrims. Reba Davis, Illinois, 1911, is librarian. The library has taken on new activity since moving into the new building.

Emma Helen Blair, who died at Madison, Wis., September 25, 1911, was the assistant of Dr Reuben G. Thwaites in the editing and annotating of "The Jesuit relations." She was a Ripon college graduate and presented to the college library the vast collection of Philippine documents known as "The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898," published in 55 volumes, which she produced in collaboration with Dr J. A. Robinson. She also left to the college library a set of two volumes, "Indian tribes of the Upper Mississippi and the Great Lakes region."

#### South

Mrs W. K. James of St. Joseph, Mo., has been appointed member of the State library commission of that state to succeed Adelaide Thompson.

Blanch V. Watts, N. Y., 1910-'11, has resigned her position as librarian of the Morningside College library to become assistant secretary of the Kentucky library commission.

The Carnegie library of Nashville, Tenn., records 45,000v. on the shelves

with a circulation of 152,000v. last year. The librarian suggests the establishment of branch libraries over the city, and particularly a branch library for the negroes with a negro librarian.

Emily Turner of Quincy, Ill., has been elected librarian of Muskogee, Okla., to succeed Mrs. I. N. Croom, resigned. Miss Turner was librarian at Oshkosh, Wis., and afterwards was connected with Pratt Institute library school.

The annual report of the Carnegie library at Atlanta, Ga., shows 56,082 v. on the shelves, 33,740 card holders, and a circulation of 292,410 v; 287 club lists were prepared, 142 debates worked up, and reference material provided for every class of workers in the community.

A report of the Public library of El Paso, Tex., for the year 1911, as made by Miss Durlin, librarian, is most encouraging. The library has grown along the lines of better administration, and the various classes of non-fiction, especially history and literature, begin to show improvement in the value and number of their additions. The number of borrowers registered was 1,136, the circulation was 53,718 v., an increase of 5,318, and the children's circulation was 11,490 v.

#### Pacific Coast

A note from Everett R. Perry, librarian of the Los Angeles public library, states that the architect for the first branch library to be erected from the Carnegie gift, was selected without competition, and that decision in regard to the other branches will be made later.

#### Canada

The thirty-third annual report of the Frazier institute (Public library of Montreal) notes a prosperous condition. The revenue from endowments and investments was increased last year by \$5,500, which will be an annual increase. An additional sum of \$3,000 per annum will be added next year, through rented property now being built.

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SPRINGFIELD (MASS.) CITY LIBRARY.—NEW BUILDING DEDICATED JANUARY 10, 1912.